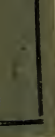


711M3

Willr

1900-20

A



FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mass.; WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1901.

BOSTON:
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.
1901.



711143
W 1112
1900-20
A

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS.

The Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission, created under section 1 of chapter 378, Acts of 1899, hereby submits its first annual report.

The commission was created on July 5, 1899, the object being to acquire for a State reservation the property known as Wachusett Mountain, as well as other adjacent property which should be deemed desirable in order to carry out the intent of the Commonwealth to provide a fitting and creditable public park for the free use of its inhabitants.

Your commissioners assumed their duties without unnecessary delay, and proceeded to make proper surveys and plans of the mountain property and such other lands as by virtue of their location were in the opinion of the Board necessary and desirable to form a natural or reasonable boundary to the mountain base. These surveys were carefully made under the supervision of Mr. Harold Parker, one of the Board of Commissioners, the work being performed by Mr. Guy H. Chase and his assistants. Great care was necessary in making the same, requiring considerable time and research, but early in January of the present year they were completed to the satisfaction of your commissioners.

The titles to the property finally purchased were then examined and approved, and on April 17, 1900, the property known as the Wachusett Mountain, containing approximately 533 acres, bounded and described as shown by plan accompanying this report, was purchased of the Beaman heirs by your commissioners, in behalf of the Commonwealth, for the sum of \$20,060. This purchase included the moun-

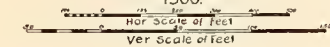
tain proper with the exception of a ravine situated upon the southerly side of same, which in the opinion of your commissioners was very desirable, forming, as it did, a pleasing and attractive feature in the contemplated park system, and which, if not included within our present boundaries, would leave an objectionable encroachment upon same in the hands of private individuals. The ravine referred to was the property of Samuel F. Mason and Thomas H. Russell, and has been taken by your commissioners under the authority granted by chapter 378 of the Acts of the year 1899. This taking increased the area of the reservation to 563.51 acres.

The above-named properties represent all that has been acquired. Since the purchase of the same many improvements have been made, which are fully set forth in the report of the superintendent, attached hereto, and to which reference is respectfully made.

The accompanying plan and profile show the grades and alignment of the mountain road. Special attention is directed to that portion of the road known as the "Ox Bow," which is in some respects the most dangerous portion of the roadway. Plans are under consideration for overcoming the extreme curve at this point, but they have not sufficiently matured to admit of a report at this time.

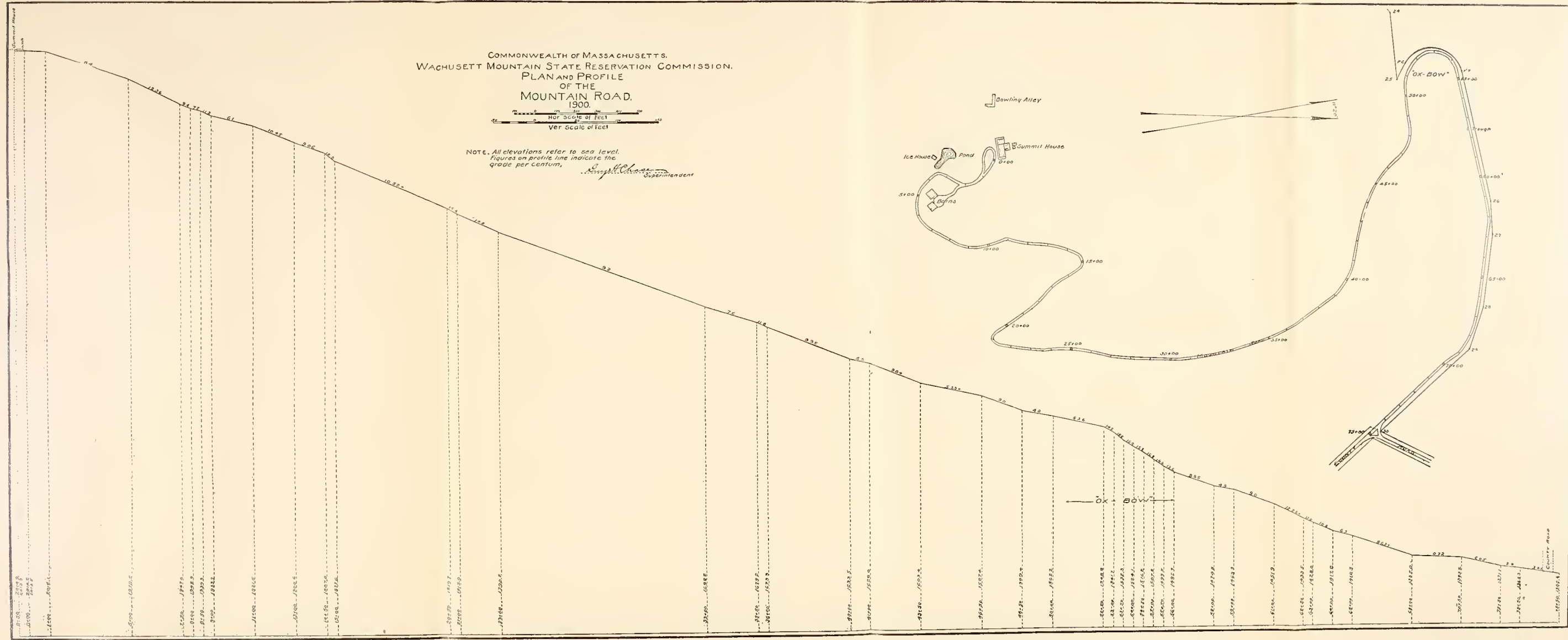
Too much importance cannot be attached to the necessity for early action in the direction of securing several tracts adjoining the mountain, and which form a natural part of a perfect park system, before their beauty and desirability for park purposes are destroyed by cutting off the trees now standing thereon. Still stronger arguments for early action are presented by the fact that much of the present reservation is approachable only by passing over private property, which it is the desire of your commissioners to acquire. Reference to the appended report of the superintendent, together with the accompanying map, on a scale of 600 feet to the inch, showing the present holding of the State and the relation of the property embraced in the limits of the reservation to the roads and outlying properties, indicates clearly the defects in the present reservation boundaries, and points out the fact that but 890 feet out of a total

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.
 WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.
 PLAN AND PROFILE
 OF THE
 MOUNTAIN ROAD.
 1900.



NOTE. All elevations refer to sea level.
 Figures on profile line indicate the
 grade per centum.

Amos A. Cook
 Superintendent





of 23,553 feet of reservation base boundary line is accessible to the public except by trespass upon private property.

The purchase of these private properties will greatly enhance the value of the park system for public uses, and give easy access and exit at various points; while in its present condition practically but one means of entrance or exit over the property of the Commonwealth exists.

The wisdom of the State in purchasing the mountain for a park adapted to the purposes of recreation and pleasure has been fully demonstrated, and the appreciation of the people proved by their abundant use of their privileges. The presence of hundreds of people daily on the mountain during the summer and early fall is ample proof of the value of a place of such natural interest and beauty for a park. It is already approachable from some of the surrounding country by one electric railroad, and another is projected from a different direction, so that its advantages can be availed of by a still larger number from now on. It certainly is essential, in order that this may be enjoyed without temptation to trespass on adjoining ground, that the present domain of the State should be extended.

Much damage was caused by the ice storm in November of the present year, by which the trees and shrubbery suffered severely. The decayed wood, superfluous spent growth, annual wind and ice storms and other natural forces are operating to devastate the woods; and, unless checked by a systematic plan for removing all undesirable accumulations and protecting as far as possible the desirable growth upon the mountain sides, its attractiveness as a park is liable in time to become lost.

Your commissioners have endeavored to present only the most important needs of the reservation in this their initial report, believing that their first aim should be, in the best interests of the Commonwealth, to acquire such land as would seem indispensable to complete a park system, and next to take steps to preserve and improve the growth and beauty of the same and provide the necessary facilities for its public use with pleasure and safety.

Not the least important step to be taken in this direction

is the placing of the mountain roadway in as safe a condition as possible ; and particular attention is directed to that portion of the report of the superintendent recommending that crushed stone be employed to accomplish this, and thus avoid much of the expense now created, and which will be incurred annually hereafter, if the road remains as now constructed.

For the purpose of acquiring the adjoining properties deemed necessary for perfecting the reservation limits, and placing the roadway in a safe and economical condition, your commissioners estimate that the sum of \$25,000 will be required, and we therefore respectfully ask for the appropriation of that amount for the purposes named.

Respectfully submitted,

A. G. BULLOCK,
HAROLD PARKER,
THEO. L. HARLOW,
Commissioners.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

State appropriation,	\$25,000 00
--------------------------------	-------------

DISBURSEMENTS.

Algernon T. Beaman and Harry C. Beaman,	
paid for Wachusett Mountain,	\$20,060 00
Engineering pay roll,	1,650 47
Engineering expenses,	658 72
Repairs on buildings,	249 75
Tools and equipment,	432 32
Legal expenses,	575 00
	23,626 26
Unexpended balance,	\$1,373 74

“Mason and Russell ” taking, of 30½ acres, unpaid.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

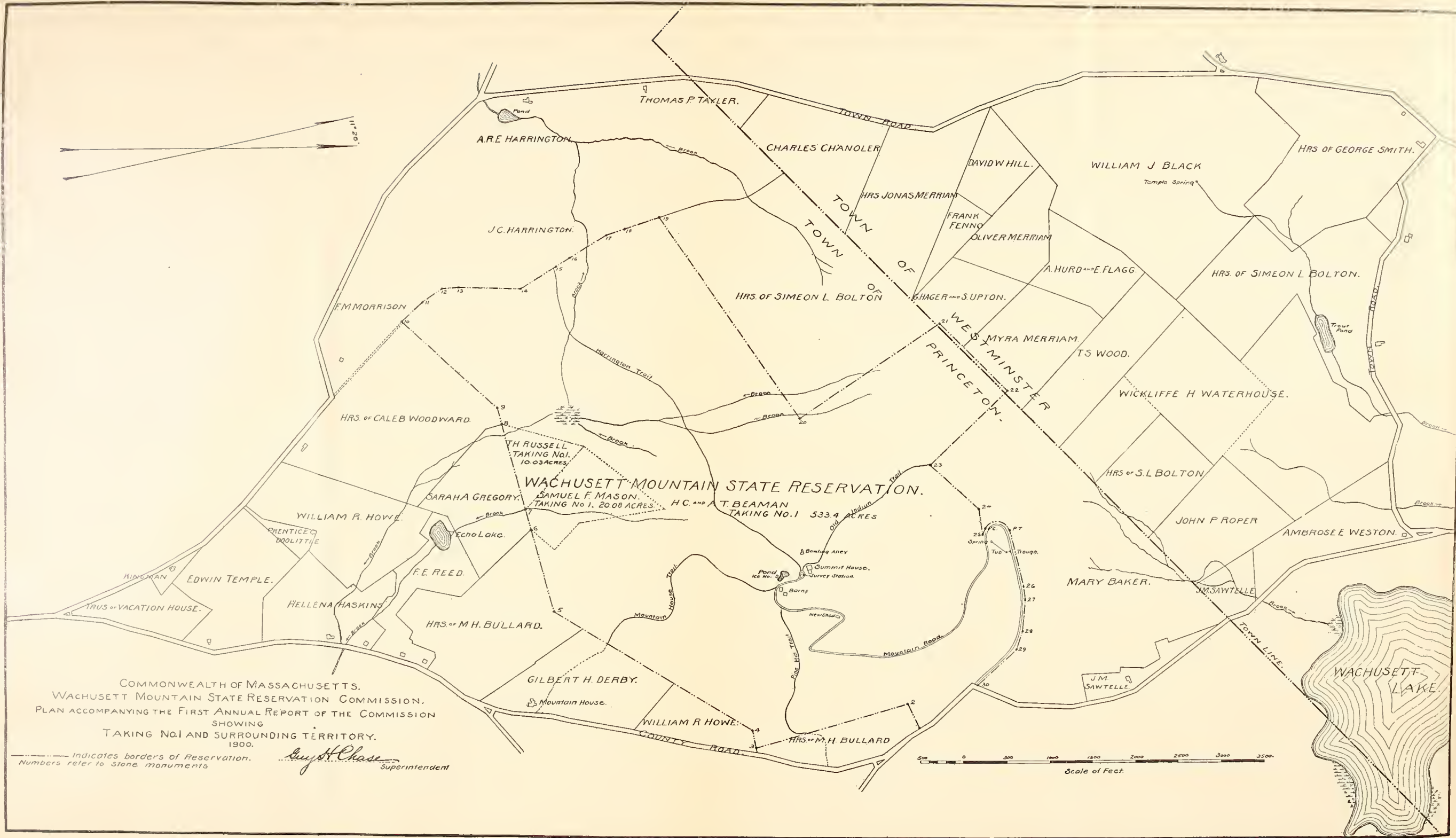
To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

In accordance with your instructions, I have the honor to report to the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission the work which has been accomplished, and also to offer suggestions as to the future line of work and needs of the commission, as observed in our daily work. These suggestions are made after a careful study of the habits, desires and requirements of the visiting public, and also with a view of having the work done in the most economical manner, with a well-defined policy in view.

On Nov. 7, 1899, your superintendent, who was then employed by the commission in the capacity of engineer, with two assistants began a survey for the commission, the object of which was two-fold: first, to survey the land proposed to be taken by the commission in its first taking under the first appropriation of the General Court; second, to survey a large traverse, including in its boundaries all lands that may be needed to enlarge the reservation under further appropriations, and to enable the commission to have all surveys of different takings referred to the same base.

Wachusett Mountain proper is surrounded by town or country roads, and these roads were used for the above-mentioned traverse. The distance around the mountain by these roads is about 8 miles.

The initial point of the survey was a triangulation station on the summit of Mount Wachusett, and is used by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Massachusetts Topographical Survey; and from this point a most careful survey was made, as stated above, the error being but $\frac{1}{14000}$.



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.
WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.
PLAN ACCOMPANYING THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION
SHOWING
TAKING NO. 1 AND SURROUNDING TERRITORY.
1900.

Lucy H. Chase
Superintendent

Indicates borders of Reservation.
Numbers refer to Stone monuments

Scale of Feet.
500 0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000 3500

The survey of the first taking was then made. It included lands of Algernon T. Beaman and Harry C. Beaman, 533.4 acres; of Thomas H. Russell, 10.03 acres; of land supposed to be of one Samuel F. Mason, 20.08 acres; making an aggregate of 563.51 acres in Taking No. 1, all of which land consists of timber, wood and sprout growth.

A map was then platted, showing all the lands within and adjacent to the road traverse, also showing the principal features of the territory included in the survey, namely, principal buildings, streams, ponds, trails, farm and property lines. Large stone monuments were secured to mark the corners permanently.

This work was finished on April 30, 1900, and on May 1 I assumed the duties of superintendent of the reservation.

At this time the road to the summit was in a wretched condition, the surface dirt having been all washed away, leaving the bed of the road extremely rough and rocky. It not being practicable at that time to secure gravel, we had to resort to what dirt could be scraped from between the rocks, and a few small pockets of clayey gravel and loam. The dirt on the mountain consists largely of leaf mould or loam, about 1,300 loads of which were put on the road, which made a very fair road, owing to the almost perfect drainage of the rock bottom. However, after each rain the road had to be carefully gone over, wash-outs refilled and stones raked out. Contrary to expectations, the road lasted throughout the season; but here I will say that it is a very expensive kind of road, inasmuch as it cost \$476.55 to put it in condition at the beginning of the past season, and in all probability it will cost as much, if not more, each season, as the material, always scarce, is all the time becoming more so, and the pits where dirt is secured are unsightly places. I would recommend a good crushed stone road as a necessity and an economy.

The stone monuments before referred to, 32 in number, were distributed and set, making permanent corners of Taking No. 1. The old trails up the mountain had gradually become disused, excepting the "Mountain House Trail," and even that was largely grown over with underbrush.

These trails were all cleared and new trails located, the brush being piled ready for burning at the proper season. These trails are not only convenient as walks and short cuts on the mountain, which are now used by a great many people, but are valuable as fire guards. Many more are to be cut, and the danger of a disastrous fire thereby reduced.

As fast as trails are cut they are located and platted on the map and levels taken, and eventually we will be able to issue a guide sheet giving distances and elevations, thus encouraging the public to seek out different parts of the reservation.

Every precaution against fire has been taken, the rules and regulations governing the use of the reservation expressly forbidding fire in any form within its limits.

In cutting trails, if it appears that an extended view may be obtained at any point by judicious cutting of trees and shrubs, that work is done. Several beautiful panoramas have in that way been made visible.

Early in the spring it was found necessary to make repairs to the roof, consequently a contract for a tin roofing for the main part of the hotel was let to Mr. F. S. Potter of Fitchburg for the sum of \$220.13. While this effectually stopped the leak as far as the repairs went, we have since discovered that the rain beats in round the sides of the observatory. These will have to be tinned before another season. The ell of the hotel is entirely beyond repair, also the out-buildings. The old bowling alley is in a state of dilapidation, and is used only for a shelter for the tin-type artist. The new barn needs minor repairs, the old barn quite extensive repairs.

I would suggest that the old bowling alley be torn down and, if the commission deems it advisable to grant a concession for a tin-type studio, let it be a new, small and unobtrusive building. The business is little favored by the public, and a venture of that nature seems to mar the effect that the public desires, and to savor too much of the air of cheap resorts. But a small percentage of the visitors to the reservation patronize the table of the hotel, and any changes in the building ought to be directed toward the "pavilion" style. On the other hand, a very large percentage of visi-

tors bring their lunch with them, and, to avoid the litter caused by widely separated lunch parties, two places were selected as picnic grounds, and waste barrels were placed at convenient points. Cheap tables were built for temporary use, but are unsightly, and I would suggest that for picnic grounds, and for resting places along the trails and at view points, tasteful, artistic rustic benches and shelters be built.

The police force consists of two officers, in addition to your superintendent, who is empowered to act as police. Their duties are general. In the summer season they are nearly all the time on police duty. In the winter they assist in work of whatever nature they may be called upon to do, but spend a certain portion of each day in patrolling the reservation. Thus far no arrests have been necessary, but the presence of police has done much to prevent a violation of the rules and regulations governing the use of the reservation, as well as to detect the presence of fires on the reservation or adjacent lands, and, if necessary, collect the laboring force to assist in putting out the fires.

The railing for hitching horses has been removed from the summit, and a free horse shed for the accommodation of the public is in course of erection, at a point a little below the summit, where it will be sheltered from the winds and nearly hidden by foliage. It will accommodate six teams, and may be enlarged when conditions warrant it. Railings for hitching horses will be erected at suitable places.

Near the summit of the mountain is a small pond, fed by surface water and springs, the water of which is used for washing purposes at the hotel, and for barn purposes. It is forced from the pond to a tank in the second story of the hotel by a wind-mill pump. The wind-mill will not last through another season, but the pump was new this season and is in good order. The water flows naturally from the pond to the barn. This pond also supplies the ice used in the hotel, a small ice house being built on the shore. All drinking water for the hotel has to be carted from a point one mile or over from the summit, where a pipe from a spring conducts water into a large hogshead, which serves as a public drinking fountain, and the overflow from the hogshead

runs into a horse trough. Both the hogshhead and horse trough are worn out. A new hogshhead and a stone watering trough are necessary.

The matter of thirsty pedestrians being accommodated with drinking water upon reaching the summit rests entirely upon the generosity of the lessee of the hotel, as it devolves upon him to bring up the water, at no little trouble. Water might be obtained by boring a well, or, after thoroughly cleaning the pond, by filtering the water from it.

The spring above mentioned has been thoroughly cleaned, the basin enlarged, and boxed in so that all foreign matter is excluded.

Surveys have been made, and are now under way, of the trails, showing the grades and alignment, also a profile of the mountain road. This work has been done with a view of eventually having a complete topographic map of the entire reservation. To that end, bench marks have been carefully established and checked as the work progressed (all elevations are referred to sea level), and the work may be extended from time to time, ultimately securing a complete and reliable topographic map that will be of great service in laying out roads and paths.

The carriage road has a maximum grade of 18.8 per cent. and an average grade of 8.67 per cent. The grade is easier than on many town roads. The total distance to the summit, from the entrance to the reservation, by carriage road is 7,500 feet, or 1.4 miles. The most difficult ascent is at a point called the "Ox Bow," the grade being 18.8 per cent., and on a very sharp curve, which adds to the danger of accident. Surveys are under way with a view of easing this grade and sharp turn, which may be accomplished by swinging the road out into the "Baker Pasture." If this land is not acquired *in toto*, a small taking will be necessary to carry out this plan.

The retaining wall alongside the mountain road has in past years been undermined and in many cases completely demolished, thus increasing the liability of the Commonwealth in case of accident. About 4,000 feet of a total distance of 7,500 feet has been rebuilt, and the growth along the road

has been thinned out and improved, rendering traffic more safe and beautifying the drive.

There are 37 sluices under the road which require constant cleaning, but are a great protection to the road during heavy rains and in the spring time when the snow is melting.

The north-east side of the mountain is particularly beautiful for its wild grandeur. Tremendous boulders are tumbled about in the greatest confusion, making numerous caves and high points commanding a fine view. At the present time this portion of the reservation is practically inaccessible, but paths may be cut and marked, inducing hardy lovers of nature to venture in these places.

The reservation has been properly posted with guiding signs, and rules and regulations governing the use of the same.

The greatest interest shown by visitors to a mountain reservation naturally lies in the location of surrounding mountains, ponds, cities, villages, etc. To gratify this desire, the hotel is surmounted by an observatory, in which is placed a very inferior telescope and a particularly inferior map, showing the country within a radius of 45 miles. This map is very small and very crude, not to say incorrect. A fee of ten cents is charged by the lessee of the hotel for admission to the observatory and use of telescope and maps. I would recommend that the commission furnish a good telescope and map, that an attendant be placed in charge, that a sufficient fee be charged for the use of the telescope, to cover expenses, and that admission be free. That is the way to protect the telescope and maps from misuse and to give the best service to the public. I have a map under way which will be extremely accurate, and will show the principal points of interest (which may be seen from here) in the whole of Massachusetts and portions of the adjacent States.

Little has been done in the forestry line as yet, excepting thinning out the undesirable growth near the carriage road and trails. At some future time the reservation ought to be divided into sections, and a systematic method adopted for treating each section. This will not only beautify the mountain, but will greatly improve the growth.

A varied assortment of game inhabits the reservation, which, under the rules prohibiting hunting and trapping, will undoubtedly increase rapidly. The proposed lines of the reservation will enclose an ideal deer park, there being both woodland and pasture, and proper feeding. Under proper protection deer would multiply rapidly. Trout rarely come into the streams on the reservation, but in the streams on land which ought to form part of the reservation they are quite numerous.

The reservation now includes only the top and portions of the side slopes of the mountain and of a total boundary line of 23,553 feet in length; only one place, 890 feet in length, may be used by the public for ingress and egress, the rest of the reservation being inaccessible except by trespass on private property. The trails all terminate on private land. Some of the most beautiful scenery and most heavily wooded land lies without the present reservation but within the lines of the circumscribing highway, which is the natural boundary line of what should be included in the reservation.

Beautiful ravines, small ponds, natural curiosities, woods and pastures, lie without the reservation, and, what is of great importance to the commission, the owners of these woodlands contemplate cutting off the wood. In some cases we have secured their promise that they would do no cutting until the next session of the Legislature, when it would be definitely known whether the commission would be able to purchase these lands; in other cases we could secure no such promise.

It is very essential that some action should be taken to preserve these woods, if the commission ever intend to acquire them. The acquisition of these lands will include several small fields of mowing land, which will be valuable both as nurseries and for hay for reservation use.

As mentioned above, the road around the mountain should be the boundary of the reservation, after excepting certain small pieces now used for hotels and summer residences, the value of which, to the owners, is far in excess of the value to the Commonwealth.

In the future the road around the mountain could be converted into a parkway, and a new road to the summit of the mountain should be opened from the south-west side, thus giving an unsurpassed drive of 8 miles around the mountain, with two or more driving roads to the summit.

The number of visitors to the mountain during the season of 1900 is far in excess of former years, notwithstanding the fact that the nearest electric railway line is three miles from the summit and the nearest steam railroad is some six miles away. With proper facilities for reaching the summit, it is difficult to estimate the large increase in the number of visitors likely to come to the reservation. For an approximate estimate, I should say that during June, July and August 13,000 people visited the reservation; and during April, May, September, and October, fully 2,000 more. This estimate does not include those who entered the reservation over private property, or those who did not reach the summit.

The present quarters of the superintendent are secured by lease until June 1, 1901, after which time some different provision will have to be made. I would suggest a house built on the reservation, combining office, stable and police headquarters, as eventually, with an enlarged reservation, the police should be mounted. I append hereto a list of tools and equipment now in possession of the superintendent, also a map showing the state of affairs as I have outlined them.

Respectfully submitted,

GUY H. CHASE,
Superintendent.

TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND OFFICE FURNITURE.

1 light mountain transit, "Gurley."	1 saddle, bridle and martingale.
1 levelling rod.	1 riding whip, 1 pair riding leggings.
1 stadia rod.	1 saddle blanket.
2 8-foot lining poles.	2 robes, 2 blankets, 2 barn blankets.
2 celluloid triangles.	2 whips, 1 carriage jack.
1 hard rubber French curve.	Barn sundries.
1 horn protractor.	1 glass cutter.
1 metal protractor with vernier.	2 files.
1 steel straight edge.	1 rasp.
1 pair proportional dividers.	1 pump for windmill.
1 celluloid scale.	1 suction pump.
4 covered paper weights.	1 brand "W. M. S. R."
1 set of beam compasses	1 putty knife.
2 draughting tables.	1 dust pan, brush and broom.
1 roll-top desk and fixtures.	2 granite dippers with chain.
1 plan case.	1 bottle vaseline.
4 chairs, 1 stool.	1 saw.
1 cuspidor, 1 wastebasket.	1 duster.
1 100-foot steel tape line, "Lufkin."	2 water cans.
3 plumb bobs.	$\frac{1}{2}$ inch, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, twist bits.
1 magnifying glass.	1 expansion bit.
1 dozen thumb tacks.	1 screw driver.
14 marking pins.	1 claw hammer.
1 pair scissors.	1 gouge, 1 firmer chisel.
2 uniforms and helmets.	6 waste barrels.
3 badges.	1 pair cutting pliers.
1 time book, 2 ledgers.	1 stone point.
9 field books.	3 stone wedges.
3 letter copy books.	Stone wedges and shims, assorted.
1 calculation book.	1 bit stock.
1 roll tracing paper.	1 bush scythe and snath.
3 hand fire extinguishers.	6 axes.
1 democrat wagon.	1 hatchet.
1 mare.	6 round point shovels.
1 sleigh.	3 steel crowbars.
1 harness (complete).	1 pinch bar.

2 iron rakes.
1 grub hook.
1 manure drag.
1 post hole spoon.
2 sickles.
4 picks, 4 mattocks.
1 monkey wrench.
2 whetstones.
7 wheelbarrows.
9 stone hammers, assorted size.
1 hoe.
6 stone drills.
1 plane.

1 Atlas of Massachusetts (com-
pliments of Topographical
Survey Board).
1 large map of Wachusett reser-
vation.
Tracing and blue print of Taking
No. 1.
1 map of Wachusett Mountain
and vicinity (compiled).
1 profile of mountain road.
1 map of Wachusett Mountain,
dated 1875.
1 map for observatory (incom-
plete).

PUBLIC DOCUMENT No. 65.

STATE MOUNTAIN RESERVATION
SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

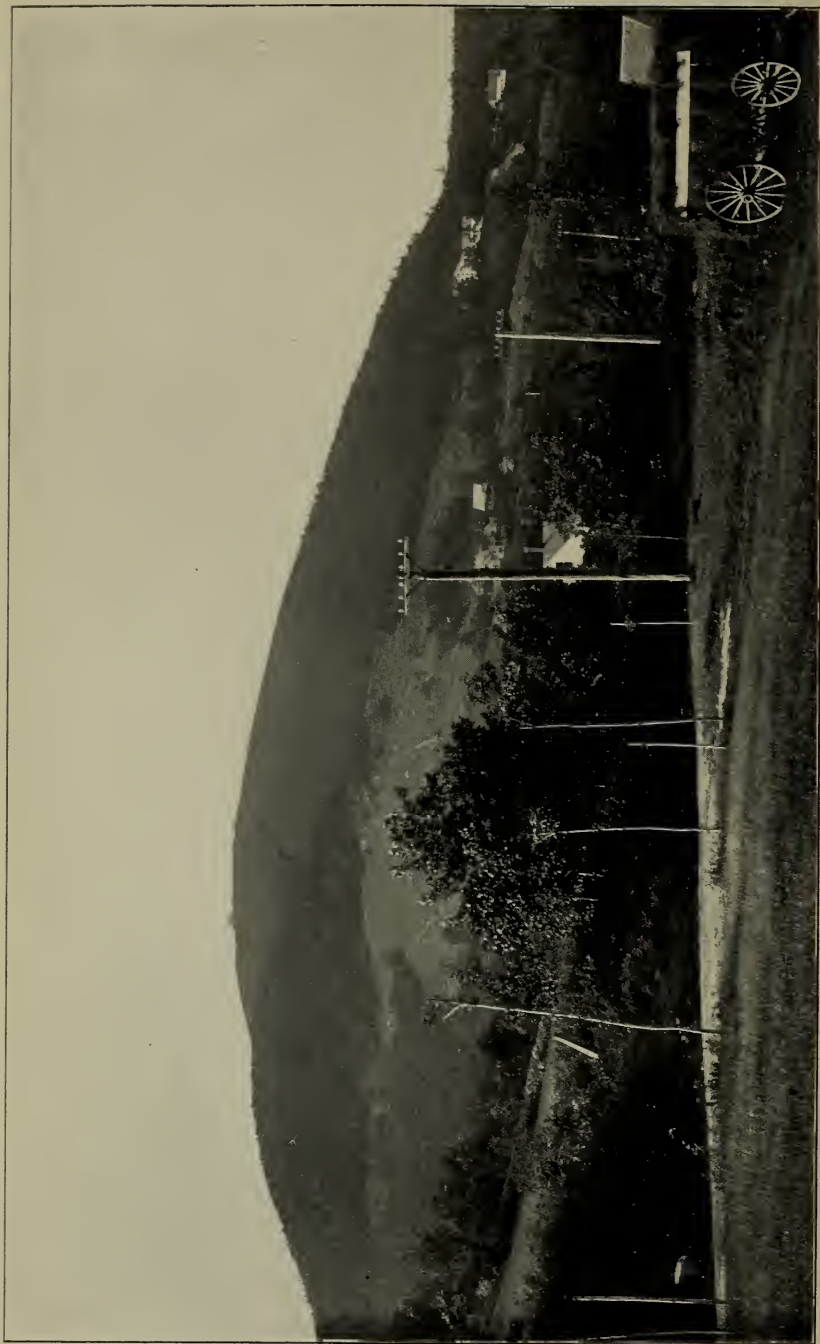
OF THE

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1902.



BOSTON :
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.
1902.



WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN — FROM THE SOUTH.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mass. WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1902.



BOSTON :

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

1902.

G.

YARBU IATB
TO
ATBUNDASAM

711 M3
Vr 11 1/2
1901
A

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS.

Since submitting the first annual report of this commission, the State has granted an additional appropriation of \$25,000 for the purpose, as set forth by your commissioners, of acquiring certain properties which were very essential to make the reservation more complete, and to establish a larger boundary line on the public highways, thereby providing easier access and exit for the public.

The reservation, at the time of our first report, contained 563.51 acres; since receiving the above-named appropriation we have acquired 816.82 acres additional, increasing the total area at the time of this report to 1,380.33 acres. The accompanying plan, prepared by our superintendent, indicates the various takings which compose the reservation as at present constituted.

But a portion, however, of these properties taken have been paid for, as will be shown by the report of the reservation superintendent, Mr. Guy H. Chase, and which is attached hereto and made a part of the commissioners' report. It will be seen that \$13,833.45 has been expended for 508.92 acres, and that 307.90 acres still remain unpaid for. Legal and other expenses attending the acquirement, examination of titles and transfers also remain unpaid. A balance still remains available for these purposes, as will be shown by the financial exhibit attached hereto and made a part of this report.

An appropriation of \$7,500 was made by the county of Worcester for maintenance of the reservation for the year

ending April 1, 1902. A statement of the receipts and disbursements on this account is embodied in this report, showing a balance on hand of \$1,568.41, which it is estimated will be sufficient to meet current expenses until new appropriation is made.

Your commissioners feel that the coming year should show a considerable improvement in the reservation. A large amount of time has necessarily been expended by the superintendent during the past year in determining the boundaries of the various properties acquired and attending to other duties allied to the acquirement of the same, thus preventing him from devoting the time he otherwise would have given to the improvement of the reservation as a whole.

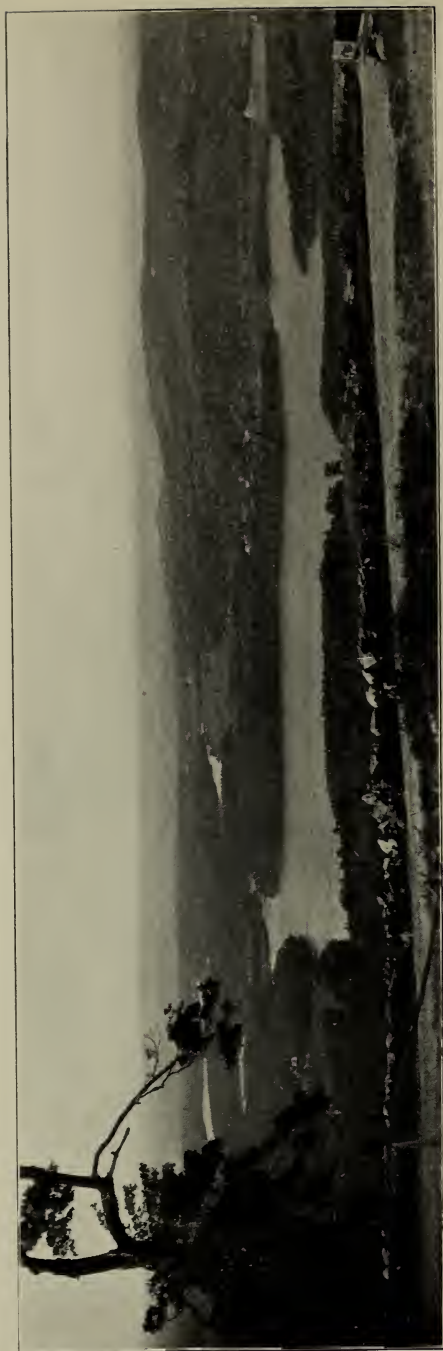
During the coming year it is contemplated changing the location and abrupt grade at the "Ox Bow," so called, which will result in removing the most dangerous element in the present mountain road.

It is also under contemplation to provide a deer park upon an advantageous portion of the State property, and to stock the same with deer. This has been more fully touched upon in the report of the superintendent herewith presented.

Your attention is called to the superintendent's report and the financial exhibits herewith presented for detailed information of our stewardship.

Respectfully submitted,

A. G. BULLOCK,
HAROLD PARKER,
T. L. HARLOW,
Commissioners.



WACHUSETT LAKE—FROM THE ROAD TO THE SUMMIT.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

I have the honor to submit herewith my second annual report, accompanied by map and photographs.

The larger part of the work has been fully set forth in my regular monthly reports to the commission, which show that much of the work has been maintenance, very little new work having been undertaken.

The principal routine work is devoted to clearing out the dense underbrush and tanglewood of fallen trees. This work will take years of labor and a great deal of money to cover the whole reservation, and will be a permanent task, as the undesirable growth comes up very rapidly. However, it will be money well spent, as the forests on the side slopes of the mountain may be made very beautiful by a proper system of forestry, though little can be done on the summit, owing to the devastations of the winds and ice formation. The growth on the side slopes consists of a great variety of trees, which, if given a chance, will develope into dense forests.

We have cleared the approach to Echo Lake and a narrow belt of land around the shores, and it furnishes a good example of the great improvement the reservation will show when it is all trimmed.

A large amount of brush has been burned, but it accumulates so fast, and there is but a limited time when it is safe or practicable to burn it, that for some time yet there will have to be more or less brush left in piles.

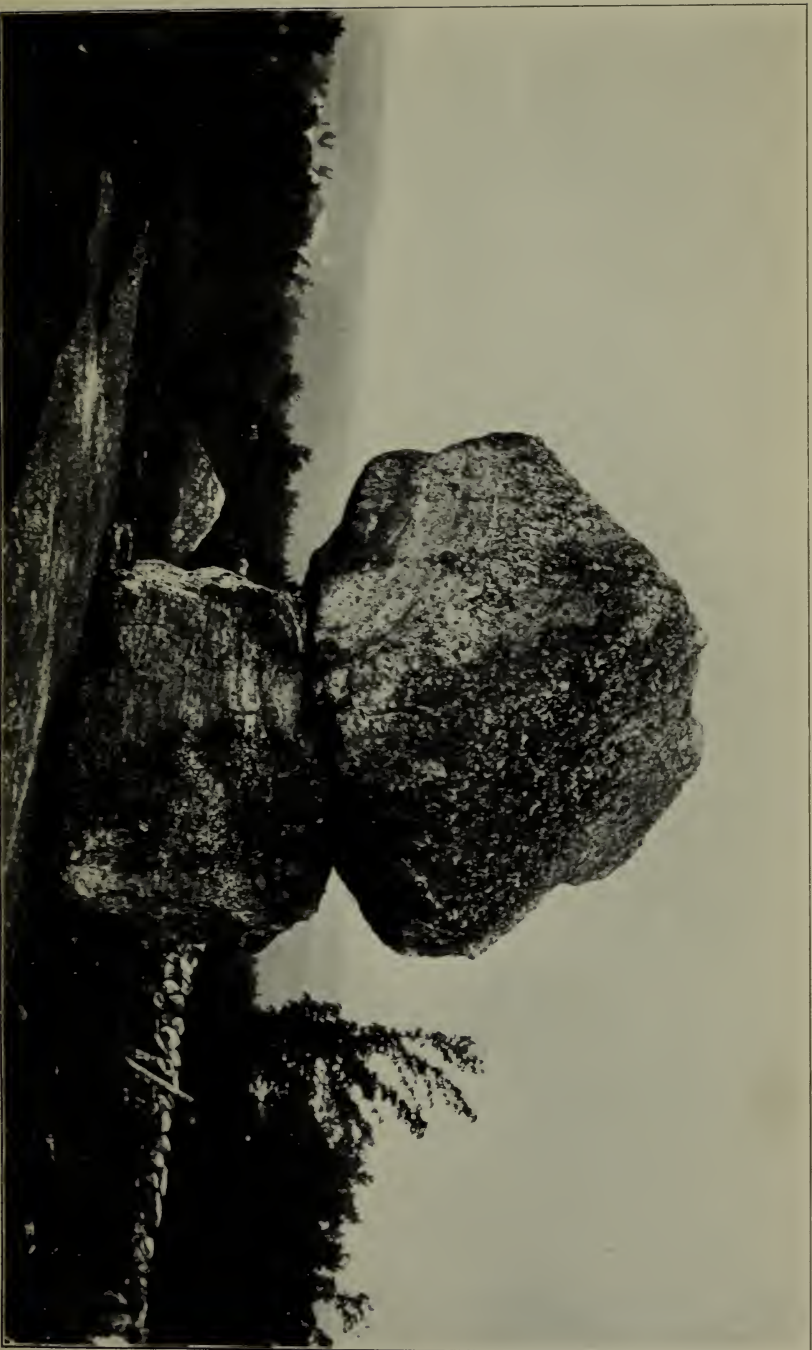
About 1,200 feet of retaining wall have been laid since the date of the first annual report, making now 5,200 feet out of a total of 7,500 feet.

The road was placed in first-class condition at the beginning of the season, and kept so throughout the season, making an easy drive to the summit. The only place where the road could be improved by a change of location is shown in the plan submitted by me, which shows the maximum grade of the present road to be 18.8 per cent. on a very sharp curve, and the maximum grade of the proposed alignment to be but 9.50 per cent., increasing the length of the road about 300 feet, and necessitating about 800 cubic yards of excavation and about 600 cubic yards of fill. The road has been maintained with such care that a smaller amount of material is required each year to keep it up to standard. At the close of the summer season bars are built across the road at frequent intervals, which prevent a great waste of material by wash-outs during the rainy season in the spring, but do not prohibit the use of the road, making it only a little more difficult of ascent. Of crushed stone, well rolled, 1,300 yards will make an excellent road, that will last many years, and we ought to have 500 yards additional for repairs, which would suffice for many years.

The hotel, barn and ice house were newly painted outside, and the hotel was newly painted and papered inside; other repairs were made, and all the furniture formerly owned by the Beaman heirs was bought, also some new furniture, shades, etc. The hotel was managed by Mr. Alley L. Harrington, and open from May 30 to October 1.

A new telescope of high power and field glasses were purchased for the observatory, and, being used only under the direction of an attendant, did not suffer the usual damage by rough handling.

The observatory map is nearly completed, and will probably be ready for public use in another season. It is very carefully constructed on geodetic principles, and shows all cities, villages, ponds, streams, hills, mountains, etc., between latitude $42^{\circ} 00' N.$ and $43^{\circ} 00' N.$, and longitude $70^{\circ} 50' W.$ and $73^{\circ} 15' W.$, and in addition gives azimuth lines for finding high mountains that may be seen from here that fall outside the limits of the sheet. It has been carefully checked, as far as completed, and has proved to be very accurate. Roughly speaking, it covers a territory of 50 miles east, 70



BALANCE ROCK - WACHUSETT STATE RESERVATION.

miles west, 40 miles north and 35 miles south, the limits of the map being governed by the limitations of the view from the summit of this mountain, except towards the north, where on clear days one may discern the White Mountains, 127 miles distant. And, as stated above, azimuths are given, showing the direction of those mountains, as well as some of the Green Mountains of Vermont.

During the summer season the atmosphere is often very hazy, limiting the view to a comparatively small radius except on very clear days; while in the spring and fall the atmosphere is nearly always clear, and it is a common occurrence to see as far as the White Mountains. Even in the winter the ice view on the mountain and the distant view well repay one for the discomforts of a trip to the summit. The road is kept open at all seasons of the year, and it is often very good sleighing to the summit.

Our observatory is wholly inadequate for the purpose, being but 12 by 16 feet, the difficulty being that persons are continually standing in line with the observer. When the railroad is built to the summit, some better arrangement will have to be made for an observatory. In fact, the whole house is old and unsuited for the business, and is wholly beyond any but minor repairs.

A new steel windmill has been erected in place of the old one, which was blown down in a gale, and gives satisfaction. I think by blasting or boring we shall be able to obtain water on the summit, as the pond there is certainly fed by springs.

The new horse sheds were completed, and for the present are large enough for the needs of the public.

We have done a great deal of surveying to determine the lines of our recent acquisition of land, of which I will speak later, and the routine work of showing the topography is progressing favorably. This will prove an invaluable feature, and there ought to be some provision made in the new headquarters for this map and the others that are accumulating very rapidly, as well as for the note books that are filled, and that represent many hundred dollars of work. I would suggest that a safe or vault be built into the walls of the new house.

The police have made but few arrests, and no case has

been carried to court as yet. Their duties more properly consist of giving information to the public, guarding against accidents in driving on the mountain road, and generally to aid the public in the summer season; and in the winter to assist in surveying and other work, as well as to patrol the reservation to watch for hunters. The reservation is so well posted that the rules governing its use are very generally understood by the public, and little trouble is caused by violators of such rules. Since the acquisition of the new land for the reservation, some of which lies in the town of Westminster, the police have been appointed in that town as well as in Princeton.

Echo Lake and the pond in the Bolton land, recently acquired, are capital places for breeding trout, both places being fed by springs; and, after flash-boards are placed on the dam and proper weirs constructed, I would recommend that the ponds be stocked.

The privilege of cutting ice on Echo Lake has been granted to Mr. P. C. Doolittle of Princeton, for certain considerations.

A bridle path from a point near monument 39, running past Echo Lake and connecting with the old stage road near monument 10, has been commenced, and could be made into a passable driving road with little expense, as the grades are quite moderate.

I am drawing up specifications for a deer fence to enclose about 300 acres on the south-westerly side of the reservation. This will enclose an ideal deer park, as it is largely in a sheltered position, and Echo Lake furnishes a good watering place, near which a shelter may be built, which will also be near headquarters, and the game can be fed and properly attended to in the winter.

I have ordered 48 stone monuments to mark the corners of our recently purchased land, and these will be set as soon as the frost is out of the ground.

The cottage on the Reed place was repainted and papered inside, and is now occupied by one of the reservation policemen, at a small rental.

I give below a list of the lands thus acquired, and the area and consideration paid.

NAME.	Area (Acres).	Consideration.
Frederick E. Reed,	18.08	\$3,500 00
Sarah A. Gregory,	28.14	550 00
Annie M. Bullard,	11.50	460 00
Annie M. Bullard,	15.20	152 00
William R. Howe,	13.00	325 00
Mary M. Baker,	126.70	2,534 00
Lizzie M. Chandler,	31.10	528 70
Heirs of Jonas Merriam,	38.80	900 00
Frank W. Fenno,	6.60	90 00
David W. Hill,	12.50	156 25
Oliver M. Merriam,	20.50	375 00
Myra L. Merriam,	27.50	412 50
Arno Hurd and Edward Flagg,	19.70	400 00
Theodore S. Wood,	29.00	550 00
Wickliffe H. Waterhouse,	110.60	2,900 00
	508.92	\$13,833 45
Mary N. Bolton,	186.20	Not yet paid for.
Joseph Hager,	16.20	Not yet paid for.
William J. Black,	102.00	Not yet paid for.
Heirs of George Smith,	3.50	Not yet paid for.
	307.90	

Making a total area of land taken in takings Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of 816.82 acres, which, with land taken by taking No. 1, dated April 30, 1900, makes the whole area of the reservation 1,380.33 acres.

Respectfully submitted,

GUY H. CHASE,
Superintendent.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

JAN. 1, 1901, to JAN. 1, 1902.

STATE APPROPRIATION.

Receipts.

Balance Jan. 1, 1901 (last report),	\$1,373 74	
Appropriation for 1902,	25,000 00	
		<u>\$26,373 74</u>

Disbursements.

Engineering pay roll,	\$524 65	
Engineering expense,	77 03	
Legal expense,	150 00	
Real estate,	14,033 45	
		<u>14,785 13</u>
Balance,		<u>\$11,588 61</u>

COUNTY APPROPRIATION.

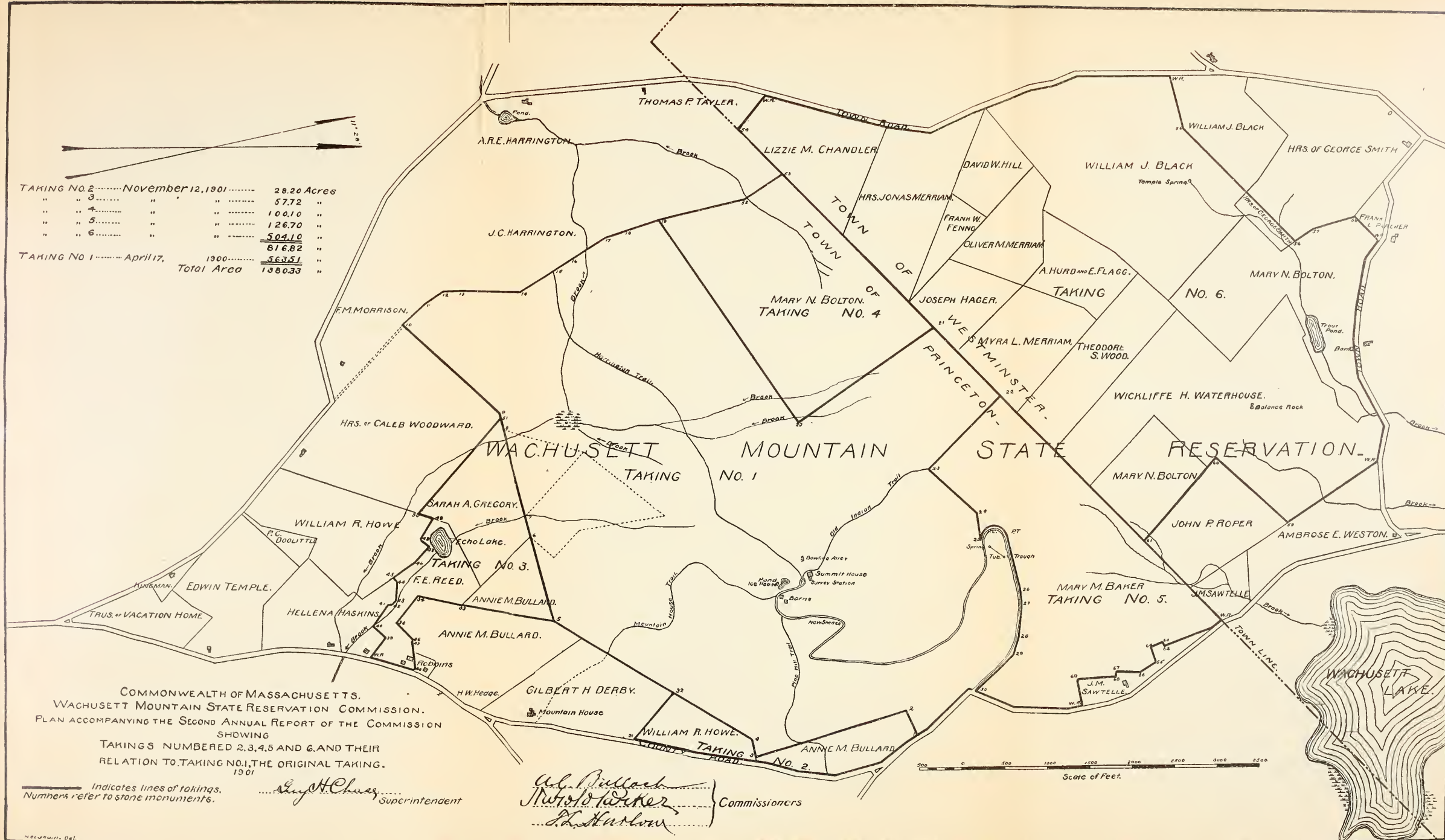
Receipts.

Balance Jan. 1, 1901,	\$2,306 32	
Appropriation for 1901,	7,500 00	
Hotel,	167 77	
		<u>\$9,974 09</u>

Disbursements.

General expense,	\$1,042 66	
Repairs on roads,	484 19	
Repairs on buildings,	892 06	
Improvements,	1,329 92	
Tools and equipment,	535 81	
Retaining wall,	299 47	
Engineering pay roll,	541 49	
Engineering expense,	9 25	
Superintendent,	763 32	
Clerical,	152 50	
Office supplies,	81 81	
Police duty,	578 75	
Hotel,	1,694 45	
		<u>8,405 68</u>
Balance,		<u>\$1,568 41</u>

TAKING No. 2	November 12, 1901	28.26 Acres
" 3	"	57.72 "
" 4	"	100.10 "
" 5	"	126.70 "
" 6	"	504.10 "
		<u>816.82</u> "
TAKING No. 1	April 17, 1900	<u>563.51</u> "
	Total Area	1380.33 "



THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1903.



BOSTON :

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.
1903.



BROOK IN WESTERLY PART OF RESERVATION.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mass. WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1903.

STATE LIBRARY
OF
MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

1903.

G.

APPROVED BY

THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

711M3
W11m
1902
A

OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

A. C. BULLOCK. HAROLD PARKER.
THEO. L. HARLOW.

Superintendent.

GUY H. CHASE.
Address, Princeton, Mass.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS.

By reference to the second annual report of the commissioners, it will be seen that at that time there remained unpaid for 307.9 acres taken for reservation purposes. We have now to report that payment has been made for the same, with the single exception of a small parcel of 3.5 acres, sufficient funds for which are in the hands of the commissioners. In addition to the above, we have acquired, by Taking No. 7, 1.03 acres, purchased of S. R. Heywood, trustee, making the area of the reservation at the present time 1,381.36 acres.

By the act of 1901, granting \$25,000 for the purpose of enlarging the reservation and improving the roadway thereon, the area has been very materially increased, and the boundaries improved by being brought as far as possible to the line of the main county road leading from Westminster to Princeton. Notwithstanding, however, that the said appropriation has been as judiciously expended as possible, and that the additional properties secured for the State have been at reasonable cost, there still remain other parcels of land, lying between the present reservation boundaries and the aforementioned county road, which the appropriation would not admit of acquiring, but which, in the opinion of your commissioners, should be secured by the State while it may be done at a reasonable cost. For this purpose we would respectfully petition for a further appropriation of \$15,000 to enable the commissioners to secure the few remaining properties which are so desirable and essential.

During the year considerable progress has been made in the direction of improving the mountain road at the Ox Bow, details of which will be found in the report of the superintendent, annexed hereto.

A deer park, embracing about 5 acres, has been enclosed, and contains at the present time six deer and one elk, all of which are in a thriving condition. It is contemplated enlarging this park very considerably during the present year, and fencing material is already upon the reservation sufficient to encompass eventually an area of at least 300 acres.

Active steps are being taken toward the erection of a cable road to the summit of the mountain, and it is hoped that such a road will be in operation in season to accommodate the summer visitors of the present year.

The reservation has been much improved since the last report, and was visited during the season of 1902 by a larger number than ever before in its history. The mountain road is in excellent condition, arrangements for visitors are convenient, and protection is afforded them by competent and courteous park officers. The present year should show still further improvements in every direction.

Appended to this will be found the report of the superintendent, who has shown a commendable zeal in putting the reservation into the best possible condition, so far as the county appropriation would admit. The financial report, showing disbursements during the year, will also be found appended.

Respectfully submitted,

A. G. BULLOCK,
HAROLD PARKER,
THEO. L. HARLOW,
Commissioners.



ROAD TO THE SUMMIT.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

PRINCETON, MASS., Jan. 1, 1903.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN : — I submit herewith my third annual report, accompanied by map and photographs.

The routine work has been fully set forth in my regular monthly reports to the commission.

Since the date of the last report all land damages have been settled, excepting a small parcel of land taken from the heirs of George Smith, situated on the northerly part of the reservation, in the town of Westminster, and the settlement of that claim is progressing as fast as the circumstances will allow.

We have made one taking, No. 7, in the past year, consisting of a small parcel of land on the north-easterly side of the reservation, adjacent to the highway, and containing 1.03 acres of land, purchased from S. R. Heywood, trustee. This last taking now makes the total area of the reservation 1,381.36 acres.

The cellar to the new headquarters, office and residence of the superintendent has been excavated, and the material used for grading in the vicinity of the new house. The foundation wall, piers and the first floor of the house have been laid. The sills and first floor were laid in the late fall, in order to protect the foundation from the elements in winter.

An addition to the barn has been built, for the purpose of a covering to carts, wagons and sleds when not in use, and to provide more stall room for horses.

In the early spring the deer that were purchased from Mr. Benson were temporarily housed in the lintel of a near-by

barn until the completion of the deer fence; and, as there was some delay in getting the fence from the factory, and afterwards in erecting the same, and as the deer were bought some time before the work could be begun on the fence, the long, close confinement had an ill effect upon them which caused the death of one of the deer.

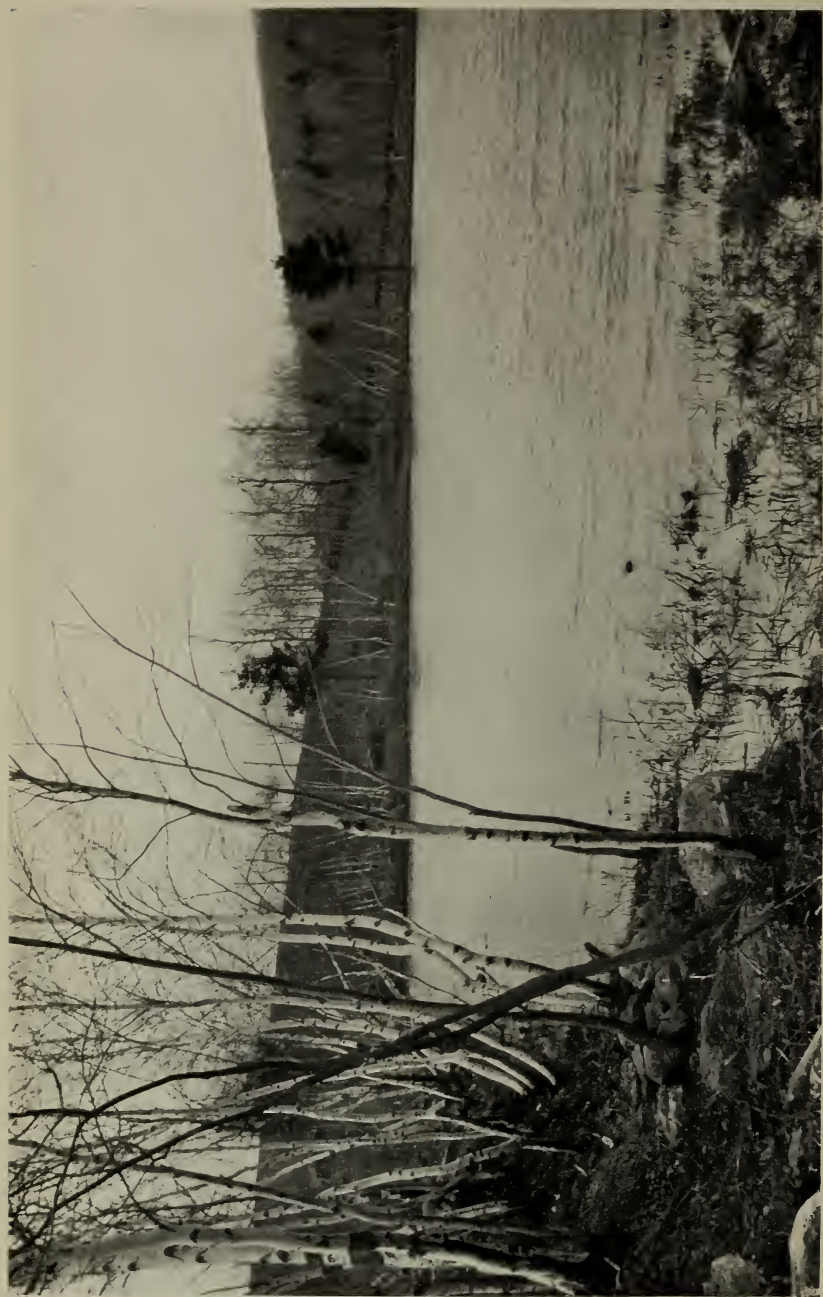
The fence, which is electrically welded wire, is manufactured by the Clinton Wire Cloth Company of Clinton, and has thus far proved to be an excellent fence for the purpose. The posts are of chestnut and oak, and were cut upon the reservation, and spaced 12 feet apart. The fence is 7 feet high, except where the inequalities of the surface of the ground necessitated the building of a rough wall underneath, where in some places it is fully 10 feet high.

After turning the deer and elk out they improved very much in condition and appearance, and are now in fine condition.

Two deer were purchased in October, and one doe has been captured on the reservation. There are many deer in this locality, and I have no doubt we may secure more, permission to do so having been obtained from the Commissioners on Fisheries and Game. We are getting out of the woods a large number of posts for the enlargement of the deer park, and in the spring we shall enclose another large area; as the herd increases, the area will also be increased, and at all times the animals will have abundant grazing and running ground, and will be, to all appearance, practically running wild. We have about 4 miles of fence on hand, including what has been erected, all of which will be needed for main and cross fences.

Some work has been done toward easing the grade on the mountain road at the Ox Bow, so called; a double box stone culvert for carrying away the waters in the spring of the year is nearly completed, and a large part of the new location has been cut or filled to the proposed sub-grade. This work will be pushed in the spring, in an effort to have the new location ready for use the coming summer.

In all places where the boundary lines are not defined by fences or walls a wide swath has been cut, showing plainly



ECHO LAKE.

the lines of the reservation, which are posted conspicuously in all places.

Stone monuments have been set at all angles in the lines of the reservation, a total of 70 having been set.

One hundred and forty bench marks have been established at different points by precise levelling, for use in the topographic survey, which is made on the telemeter system with excellent results; and the work is progressing favorably, about one-third of the reservation having been covered thus far. The contour interval is 5 feet, and shows very plainly the topographic features of the mountain.

When the survey is completed, or far enough advanced to warrant doing so, I would suggest that some driving roads or bridle paths be laid out and built over different portions of the reservation.

The observatory map has been completed, and 500 lithograph copies placed on sale in the observatory, at a price of 75 cents each. This map has proven very accurate and instructive to visitors, and many have availed themselves of the opportunity of purchasing copies.

The receipts from the observatory were in excess of the preceding year, as was also the attendance upon the mountain.

With the advent of the proposed railroad to the summit of the mountain we may expect an exceedingly large increase in the number of visitors; and some provision ought to be made for a material improvement in the hotel and out-buildings on the summit, to accommodate the large number that will take advantage of such means of reaching the summit. Sanitary arrangements should be provided, also a supply of pure water obtained at the summit, to obviate the necessity of carting it to the summit from below.

Mr. Alley L. Harrington leased the hotel the past season, and provided excellent accommodation for the public.

The ice house on the summit has been filled, and Mr. Charles U. Hubbard has been granted the exclusive privilege of cutting ice upon Echo Lake for a term of seven years, for certain considerations favorable to the commission.

Notwithstanding the fact that the last appropriation from

the General Court was considered sufficient to buy all the land needed to enlarge the reservation, I think it would be well to acquire certain properties, which are shown upon a map herewith submitted, for the following reasons: first, because the land ought properly to be included in the reservation, and may be bought for a much lower figure now than it may be later; second, the purchase of said properties will eliminate certain easements and water rights that it might become necessary later on to acquire; third, upon some of the lands are situated farmhouses which could be rented to workmen on the reservation, thus enabling them to live near the work. This is of importance, as now the workmen are obliged to travel long distances to get to the work. Furthermore, some of the land will yield a supply of hay for the animals, while other parcels are needed to round out the lines of the reservation.

An appropriation of \$15,000 will, in my judgment, be sufficient to cover all the damages for the land required.

As we are progressing favorably with our enclosure fences, I would suggest the purchase, in the spring, of more deer and other animals.

I append hereto an inventory of tools and equipment, excepting an inventory of the hotel furnishings, which is on file.

Respectfully submitted,

GUY H. CHASE,

Superintendent.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance Jan. 1, 1902,	\$11,588 61	
Mary N. Bolton (returned),	100 00	
	<hr/>	\$11,688 61

DISBURSEMENTS.

Real estate,	\$7,898 30	
Legal,	1,016 74	
General,	77 50	
Improvements,	54 00	
Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1903,	2,642 07	
	<hr/>	\$11,688 61

PRINCETON, MASS., Jan. 1, 1903.



PUBLIC DOCUMENT No. 65.

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

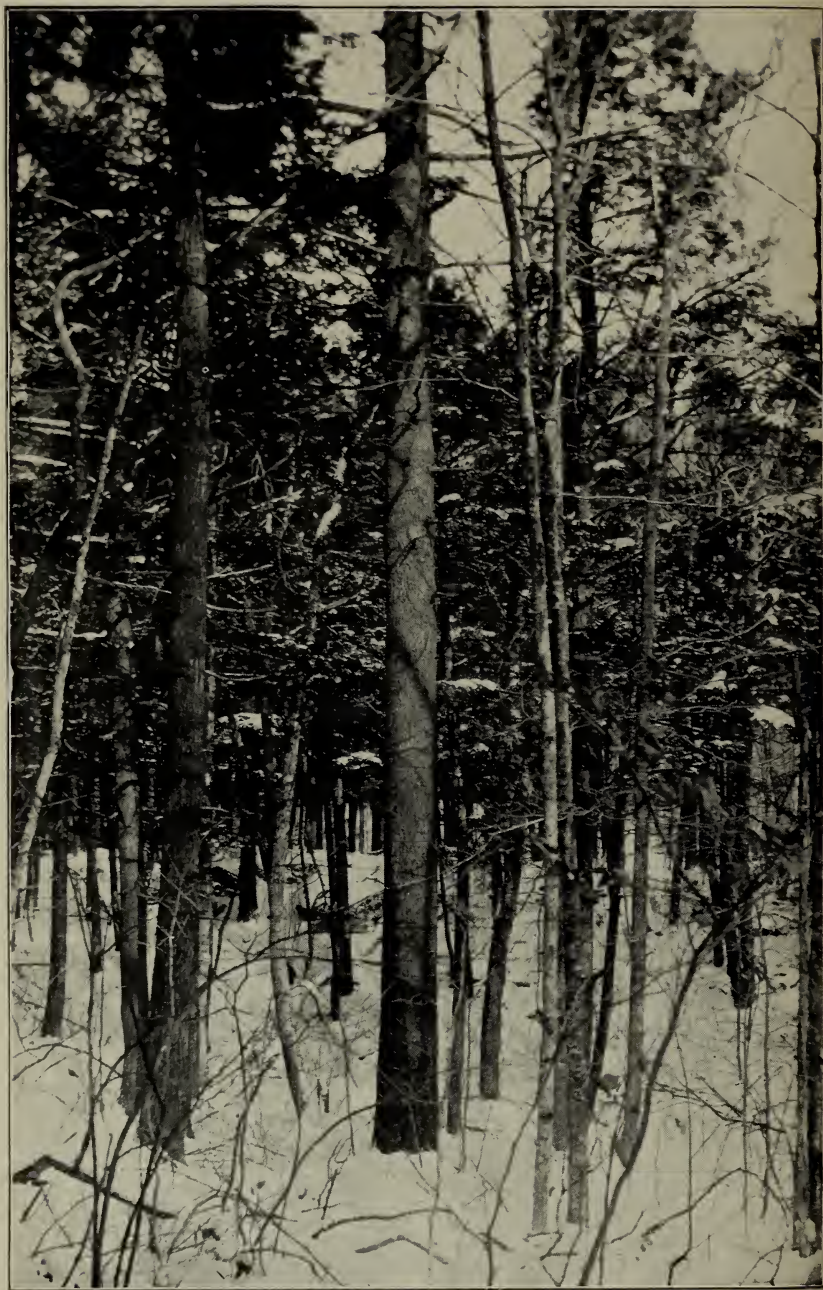
OF THE

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1904.



BOSTON :
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.
1904.



A PART OF THE WILDERNESS GIVEN UP TO DEER AND ELK.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mass
=
WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1904.



BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,

18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

1904.

C.

MADE BY
TO

APPROVED BY
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

711M3

W112

1903

A

OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

A. C. BULLOCK.

HAROLD PARKER.

THEO. L. HARLOW.

Superintendent.

GUY H. CHASE.

Address, Princeton, Mass.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS.

In presenting the fourth annual report of your commissioners, in which the work performed upon the reservation is shown in detail by the annexed report of the superintendent, we beg to point out in advance that the efforts of your commissioners, through lack of funds necessary to improve the property, have been severely handicapped.

In our third annual report we called attention to the necessity of appropriating not less than \$15,000, to be used mainly for the purpose of acquiring certain properties, in order to adjust the reservation boundaries to the public highways. It seemed to your commissioners that the property of the Commonwealth, when used for public purposes, as is this reservation, should not be hemmed in from the main avenues of travel by private holdings, which is the case in certain portions of the park under the present conditions.

It is also imperative, in the opinion of your commissioners, that roads be established upon the reservation as soon as practicable, in order that the public may enjoy its beauties, which at the present time are practically inaccessible, excepting under conditions which would hardly seem creditable in a pleasure ground of the Commonwealth.

In order to better illustrate what is required in this direction, we have had prepared a map showing the proposed roads, by which it will be seen that a large portion of the reservation in its present condition can only be approached

with difficulty, while by the establishment of the proposed roads it would be opened to the public, and many of the most beautiful portions of the reservation brought into general use.

The county appropriation has been barely sufficient in the past to cover the cost of maintenance, and thus the Commonwealth through its commissioners is utterly unable, owing to lack of necessary funds, to improve the property and make it accessible and enjoyable. The natural conditions are such that, with reasonable expenditures, it could be made one of the most attractive features in the entire park system of the Commonwealth. It stands in the same relative position to the central part of the State that the metropolitan park system does to Suffolk County and its surroundings.

It might not be amiss to point out at this time the relative position of Worcester County as regards the remaining portion of the State, by way of emphasizing the importance of developing this beautiful property.

Worcester County alone contains 1,600 square miles, or nearly 20 per cent. of the entire area of the State. Its population is over 350,000, and its valuation is about \$250,000,000. These facts should in our opinion command the serious attention and thought of our legislators, and convince them of the importance of acceding to the requests of your commissioners, and thus enable them to furnish the playground to which such an important part of the Commonwealth is justly entitled.

As far as the limited appropriations would admit, your commissioners have done all that has been possible to make the reservation attractive to the residents of the cities and towns in its vicinity; and the yearly increase of visitors is practical evidence that, with the much-needed improvements already mentioned, this reservation could be made one of the most creditable and enjoyable possessions of the Commonwealth.

In order to put into effect the suggestions contained in this report, your commissioners estimate that not less than \$15,000 will be required, and an appropriation of that amount is hereby respectfully requested.

Annexed will be found the report of our superintendent, giving details of work performed, and desired improvements for the future; also the financial report of the commissioners, showing receipts and disbursements during the past year, all of which is

Respectfully submitted,

A. C. BULLOCK,
HAROLD PARKER,
T. L. HARLOW,
Commissioners.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

 RECEIPTS.

Balance Jan. 1, 1903,	\$2,642 07
-----------------------	-----------	------------

DISBURSEMENTS.

Repairs to roads,	. . . . .	\$1,100 00
Engineering pay roll,	. . . . .	663 62
Clerical and office expense,	. . . . .	203 75
Balance,	. . . . .	674 70
		<hr/> 2,642 07
Balance in hands of State Treasurer,	. . . . .	<hr/>\$674 70



DEER AND ELK WITHIN THE RESERVATION.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

PRINCETON, MASS., Jan. 1, 1904.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN: — I have the honor to submit herewith my fourth annual report. You have been advised from time to time of the routine work which has been under way during the past year, and it will be necessary to touch upon only a few matters concerning what has been done.

Echo Lake dam has been entirely rebuilt, and a substantial flume for regulating the level of the water in the lake has been put in the centre of the dam. The water level has been raised two feet higher than formerly, giving a maximum depth of about eleven feet. The top of the dam is to be used as a driving road, to form part of a system of roads to be built. The water in the lake has been drawn off, and the bottom thoroughly cleaned of stumps and mud.

About two miles of deer fence have been constructed, making a total area of enclosure of about sixty acres. Within this enclosure are deer, elk and Angora goats. There are also twenty mallard ducks on Echo Lake. In addition to these, we have purchased from the Blue Mountain Forest Association deer and elk, which have as yet not been delivered.

The house for your superintendent has been completed and the grading nearly finished. The office adjoins the house, and contains a fireproof vault for maps and papers, etc. Water is piped from Echo Lake to the building with sufficient head to give good fire service.

The new location of the road at the Ox Bow was opened to public travel in the spring, although the final surfacing was not completed at that time, as it was deemed advisable to have a season's travel over the road first.

The Summit House is in urgent need of extensive repairs to make it suitable for public use.

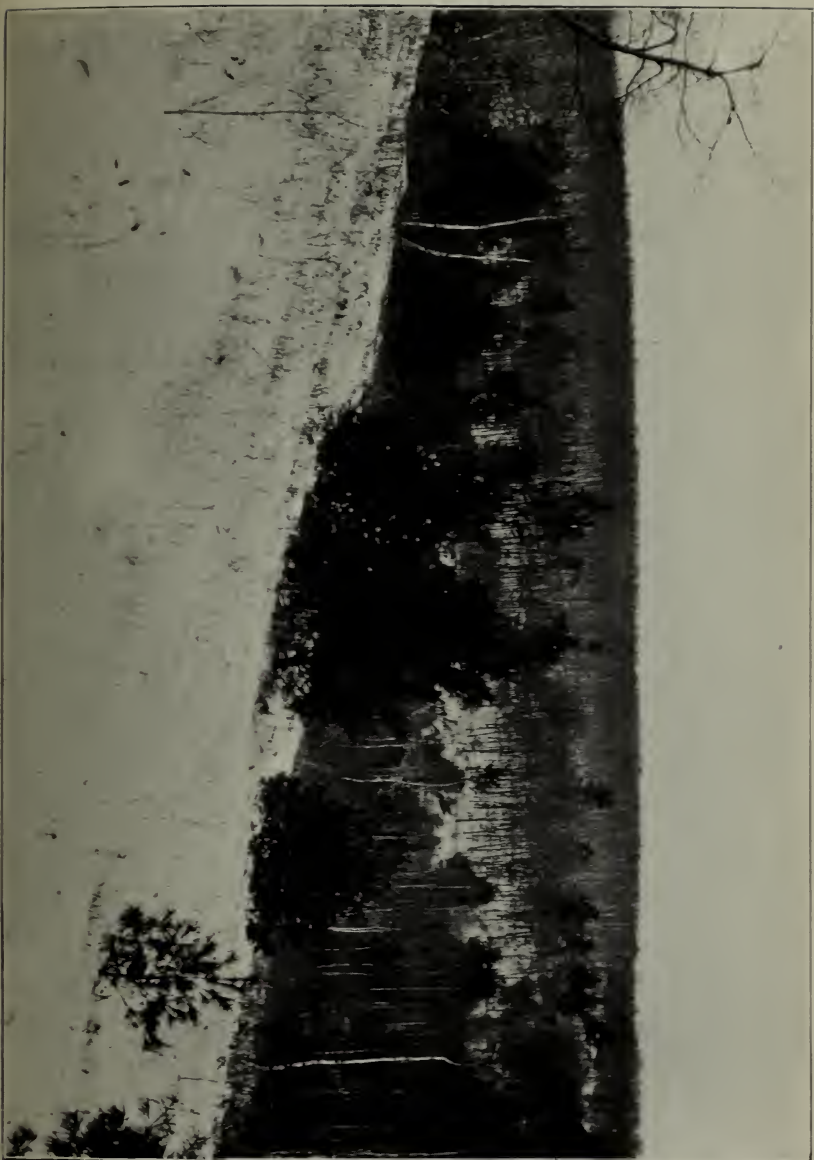
There have been but two arrests the past year, both of which were for the violation of our rule forbidding entering the reservation with an automobile.

Our experience has demonstrated the futility of trying to clean up the vast area of decrepit trees and dense underbrush on the reservation for any immediate results; and after going over the ground with Mr. Theodore F. Borst, forest engineer, it has seemed to me advisable to devote much of our energy and means toward reforesting with trees more adapted to the reservation by nature, and gradually clean out this undesirable growth, substituting therefor white pine and spruce, and developing and encouraging the young hard woods now coming up. Of course the work will make very little immediate showing, but it seems to me this is the only solution of the problem that confronts us in regard to the woods on this reservation. Future generations will profit by our beginning, and ultimately the reservation will be covered with a forest that will yield a revenue from conservative lumbering sufficient to carry on the work of the reservation. To that end I outline the mode of procedure I deem advisable to adopt.

First of all, there should be located and built for the pleasure of the public, for marketing the wood, and for fire guards, a system of main roads, which should be so laid out as to take in the most attractive features of the reservation and to give access to the same from different points on the circumscribing highways, and as the topography of the ground will best allow. The area enclosed by these main roads should then be subdivided into areas of from fifteen to twenty acres each, by trails, cart or bridle paths, as the grades may determine, thus enabling us to confine a forest fire to one of these areas. For administration purposes, each of these subdivisions, trails, etc., may be lettered or numbered, as fully shown on the map accompanying this report. Our great and ever-present danger is from fire, and that must be guarded against in some such manner, as outlined above.



YOUNG WHITE PINES ON THE WESTERLY PORTION OF THE RESERVATION WHICH
NEED THE CARE OF THE FORESTER.



VIEW ON SOUTHERLY PORTION OF RESERVATION.

We have been steadily at work on the contour map, which shows contours at five-foot intervals, and it is practically finished, thus enabling us to lay out the main roads and trails to the best advantage, and with the proper appropriation this may be taken up in the early spring. As the matter now stands, the greater portion of the reservation is inaccessible to the public, and in nearly nine miles of outside boundary lines there is but one road which leads to the summit, and no road into the interior of the reservation. There are quantities of wood to be gotten out, if we have roads to carry it upon; and in the tree-planting work roads will be a necessity. These roads and trails may safely be burned over each year by having chemical extinguishers at hand, and kept free from any growth, proving effectual fire guards. After having built the roads and trails, each section may be treated by itself, under the direction of a forest engineer, and a certain area reforested each year, thus systematizing the work; and, with our cord wood, intermediate yields and final harvest, we may expect good returns from a very promising investment. About 25 per cent. of our area is either open pasture or what might be termed waste lands. This should be planted to spruce and pine, as an investment; but, even from an æsthetic stand-point, what could be more interesting and instructive to the general public than to watch a new forest gradually develop in waste land?

To this end it becomes necessary to first establish a nursery for raising seedlings; these could get a fine start the first year, while we were building roads and trails, and the third year we would be in a position to supply all our needs for each year's planting.

Such a nursery could be established at a small expense, and an ideal location presents itself on the Woodward parcel adjoining the reservation, which is already a very promising stand of young pine, and which is also needed for administrative purpose, as set forth in our last annual report.

It is my intention to photograph the sections of the reservation as the work progresses, and keep a photographic record of all work.

To revert again to the fire problem, I wish to emphasize

the necessity of the roads to enable us to get chemicals and tools for fire fighting on the danger ground in the shortest possible time ; and I earnestly recommend that pole box telephones be placed upon the summit and at out-lying points on the reservation, connected with headquarters, for the purpose of quickly notifying headquarters of any danger of fire, for police purposes, for administrative purposes, and incidentally for hotel use at Summit House. This would mean but a slight expense after the first cost, and might be the means of preventing a disastrous fire.

It is my intention, with your permission, to construct a relief map of the mountain, from the contour map, to be used in forestry work, and also as an exhibit of interest to the public.

In my judgment, the sum needed to purchase the necessary lands for completing the reservation and for building the main driving roads and doing the other necessary development work would be not less than \$20,000.

I submit herewith a map, showing in a general way the scheme as I have outlined it, and also two parcels of land which we should acquire to complete our boundaries and provide for nurseries.

Hoping that this plan will meet with your favor, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

GUY H. CHASE,
Superintendent.

True Meridian

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

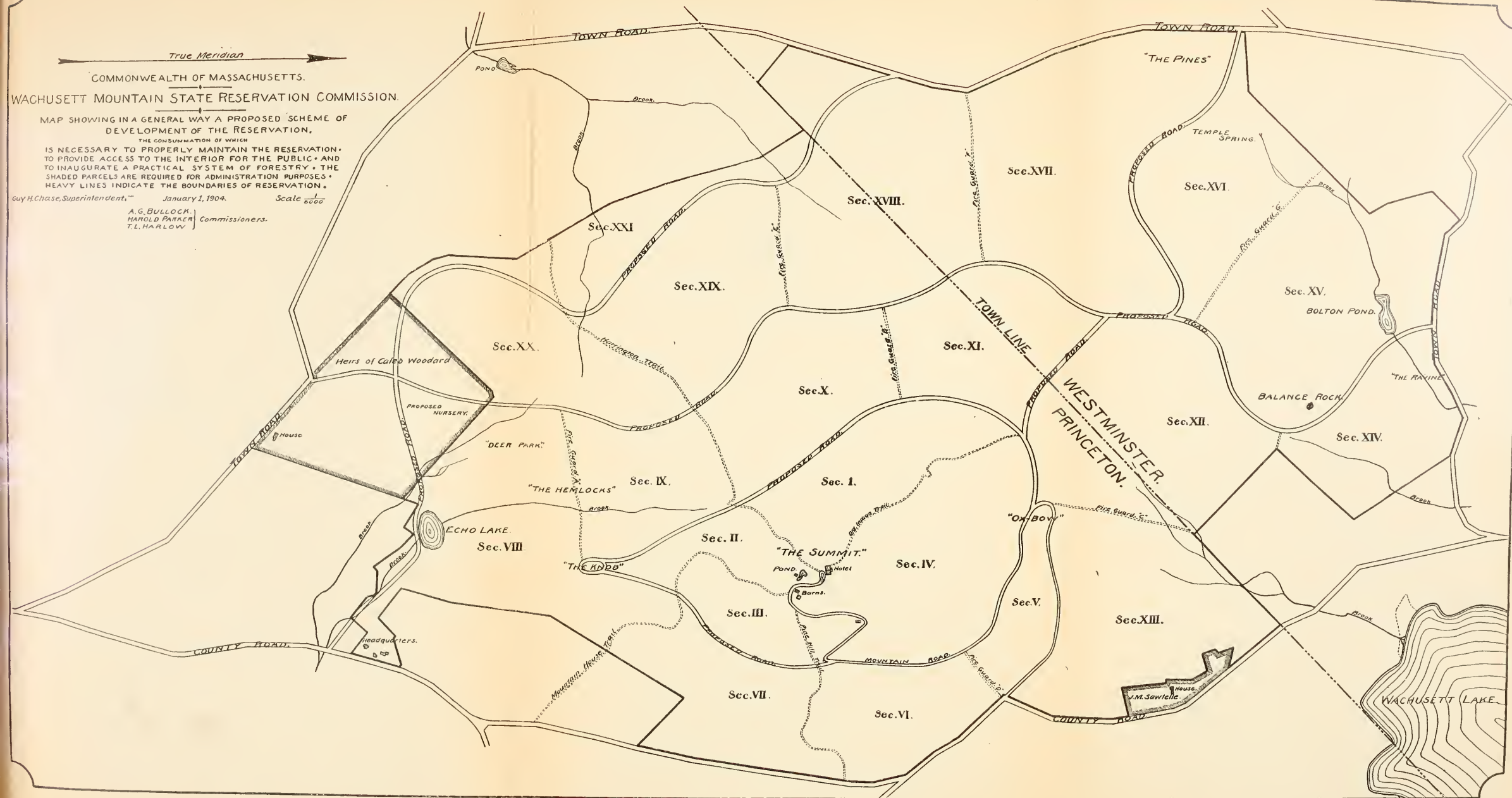
MAP SHOWING IN A GENERAL WAY A PROPOSED SCHEME OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESERVATION.

THE CONSUMMATION OF WHICH IS NECESSARY TO PROPERLY MAINTAIN THE RESERVATION, TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE INTERIOR FOR THE PUBLIC, AND TO INAUGURATE A PRACTICAL SYSTEM OF FORESTRY. THE SHADED PARCELS ARE REQUIRED FOR ADMINISTRATION PURPOSES. HEAVY LINES INDICATE THE BOUNDARIES OF RESERVATION.

Guy H. Chase, Superintendent, January 1, 1904.

Scale 1/6000

A. G. BULLOCK,
HAROLD PARKER,
T. L. HARLOW } Commissioners.



FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1905.



BOSTON :

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,

18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

1905.



DEER WITHIN THE ENCLOSURE UPON THE RESERVATION.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mass. WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1905.



BOSTON:
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

1905.

cl

APPROVED BY
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION



THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION

711M3
711M4
1904
A

OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

A. G. BULLOCK. HAROLD PARKER.
THEO. L. HARLOW.

Superintendent.

GUY H. CHASE.
Address, Princeton, Mass.



BOLTON'S BROOK.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS.

In our fourth annual report we presented the necessity of establishing fire guards upon the reservation, and suggested at that time that an appropriation be granted for that purpose, but it was not favorably acted upon. We desire in this our fifth annual report again to emphasize the necessity of the establishment of these fire guards upon the reservation.

We wish particularly to refer to that portion of the report of our superintendent wherein he refers to the importance of providing such safeguards upon the reservation. At the risk of repeating what we have already stated in previous reports, we feel it our duty to again present this matter in as forcible a manner as possible. The commission believe that, unless some steps are taken in the direction of procuring proper and efficient protection against fire, the reservation will at certain seasons of the year be left open to a possible conflagration, and consequent serious loss to the State, which it would take many years to repair. The danger of this will be more apparent when it is considered that the reservation embraces at the present time over 1,300 acres.

As has been pointed out in the report of our superintendent, we have already been visited by one conflagration, which, had it not been for most favorable circumstances which existed at that time, would have proven a very serious loss to the Commonwealth. The necessity of these fire guards was at that time made apparent, and, in order that the property of the Commonwealth may be properly protected, we desire again to draw your attention to the necessity of an appropriation for this purpose.

Not less than \$15,000 will be required to properly establish these fire guards, and for the purpose of acquiring some small tracts of land which are very essential in establishing the proper natural boundaries of the reservation upon the travelled highways. We desire to point out, in connection with the establishment of these proposed fire guards, that not less than two of them should extend across the above-mentioned tracts of land which it is the desire of the commission to acquire for the State. It should also be borne in mind that these fire guards can at a comparatively moderate expense be eventually developed into comfortable roads over the different parts of the reservation, and in this way result in opening the same to the general public. It may not be out of place to say that at the present time there is but one road accessible for vehicles upon the reservation, and consequently but a small portion of it is available except to pedestrians.

This reservation is a very valuable possession of the State, and, as has been pointed out in our fourth annual report, provides a recreation ground for the people of the central portion of the State. To quote from this report: "Worcester County alone contains 1,600 square miles, or nearly 20 per cent. of the entire area of the State. Its population is over 350,000, and its valuation is about \$250,000,000." The reservation is being visited by larger numbers than in previous years, and is fast becoming a popular resort. Increased facilities for reaching it in the way of trolley lines are under contemplation, and, in the opinion of the commission, the reservation is becoming appreciated more and more every year.

In view of this fact, viz., that the public is making greater use of the reservation each year, the absolute necessity for better accommodations at the summit becomes more apparent. The old hotel is in part entirely ruinous, and cannot be properly repaired; it must be reconstructed. The money received from the county is, under the law, only available for purposes of maintenance; and the county cannot, even if willing to do so, build new structures on State land. The commission feel that something must be

done in the State's interest, and that our manifest duty would be neglected if we did not present the facts for your consideration, and suggest a means of preserving property under our care. The commission urge the appropriation of an additional sum of \$10,000, to be used in removing the ruinous parts of the summit house and adjoining buildings, and the erection of suitable structures in their stead.

The commission, therefore, recommend the passage of the following act: —

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND ENLARGEMENT
OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. A sum not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars shall be allowed and paid out of the treasury of the Commonwealth, from the ordinary revenue, to be expended by the Wachusett mountain state reservation commission for the following purposes: for the construction of fire guards in and upon said reservation, and for acquiring, by purchase or otherwise, such lands adjoining the present Wachusett mountain state reservation as said commission may deem it necessary or advisable to acquire, a sum not exceeding fifteen thousand dollars; for the reconstruction of the summit house and adjacent buildings on Wachusett mountain in said reservation, a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars.

SECTION 2. Said commission shall have the same power to acquire, take and care for such additional lands as are given to it by section four of chapter three hundred and seventy-eight of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, and section two of chapter four hundred and ninety-six of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and one, in respect to the lands already acquired by the commission for said reservation. The additional lands taken or acquired under the provisions of this act shall form a part of said reservation, and the title thereto shall be and remain in the Commonwealth.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

A. G. BULLOCK,
HAROLD PARKER,
T. L. HARLOW,

Commissioners.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

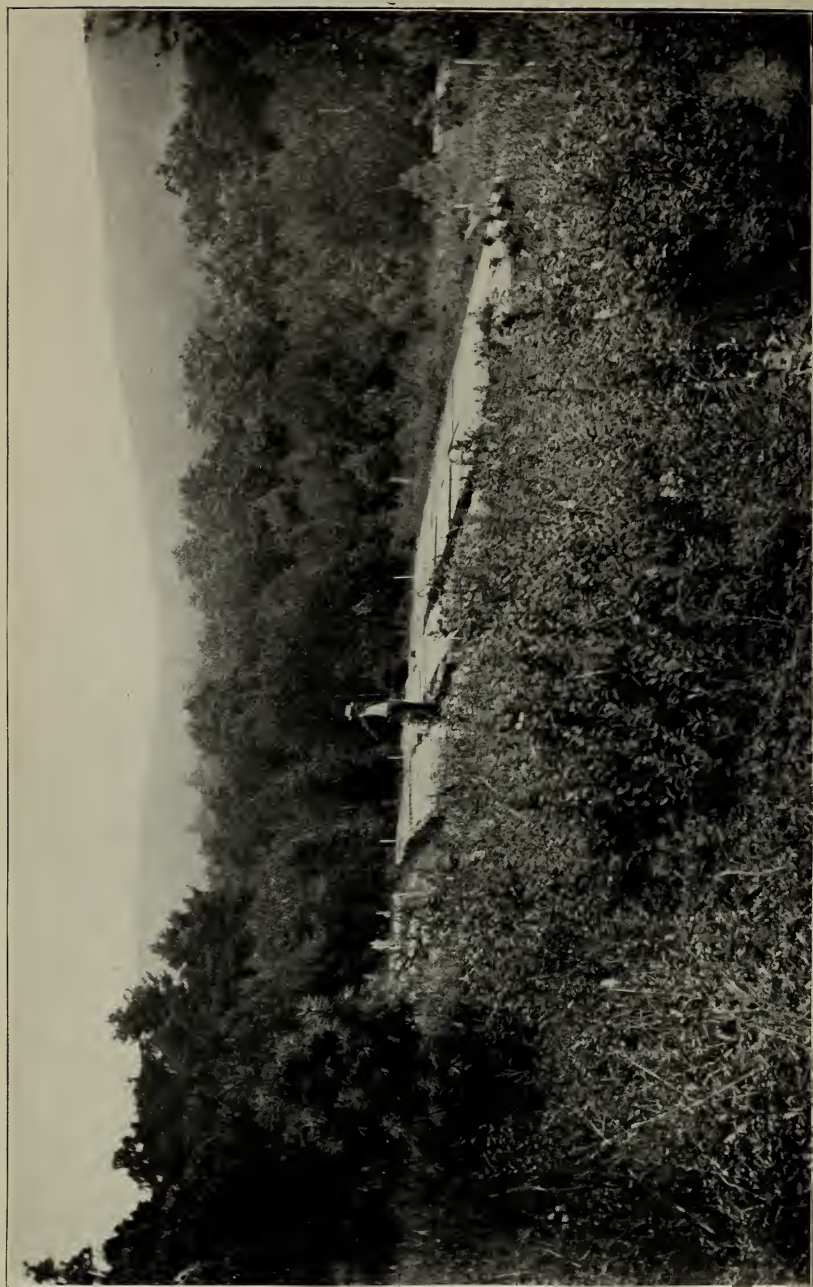
PRINCETON, MASS., Jan. 1, 1905.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN: — The administration of the reservation having been under your direction, it is unnecessary to enter into detail of the work done during the past year; but I wish to again call your attention to the urgent need of fire guards or roads. In my last annual report to the Board I indicated upon a map the general lay-out of such roads or fire guards, and since that time I have built a section, and have other sections under way; but, unless the appropriation is materially increased, it will take many years to properly protect the reservation, while disastrous fires are liable to occur at any time. This is especially true of tracts of land open to the public, and a fire with slight headway under proper conditions might devastate the mountain.

As an illustration of this danger, I might state that a fire which started recently, and burned over about ten acres, killing every tree upon the tract, was finally extinguished only by a combination of favorable conditions, which would seldom occur. The fire occurred on the outside limits of the reservation, the direction of the wind was favorable, and the fire ran to an old brook bed that acted as a fire guard, and well illustrated their practical value.

With the intention of reforesting the waste lands of the reservation, and that portion where the growth is in a decline, we have established a nursery, in which we raise young conifers from the seed, for transplanting upon these areas. This nursery is started in a small way, but will be materially enlarged the coming spring. It will be unwise to plant extensive areas of young pines and spruces without adequate protection from running fires, for even a light surface fire will ruin a plantation of young transplants, which



THE NURSERY.

marks the beginning of a future forest reservation. I consider it not only good administration to protect the property of the Commonwealth from a danger of fire, but also a plain business of insurance against fire losses.

These fire guards are merely cleared strips about twenty feet wide, dividing the reservation into relatively small areas, upon which a fire may be controlled. These divisions may be subdivided by paths cleared to a width of six or eight feet, thus making the reservation accessible at all points. The guards and paths are laid out with due regard to the topography of the mountain; and, while the present purpose is to prevent the spread of fires and to provide means of reaching them with proper facilities for extinguishing the same, they may ultimately be made into very good driving roads and paths, at a moderate additional expense. Any delay in providing for these fire guards may be attended with serious losses.

The land upon which the nursery is located is leased land, and two of the fire guards are laid out across the parcel, and it is essential that an appropriation be made for the purchase of said parcel.

The relief map is well under way, and will be completed this winter. It is made upon a vertical scale of fifty feet to an inch, and a horizontal scale of two hundred feet to an inch. It will show with extreme accuracy the shape of the mountain, and, with the topography map which has recently been completed, will be of great assistance in all work of development of the reservation, not only for the present, but for years to come. The relief map will be interesting to the public, as well as useful for the administration.

The buildings at headquarters have been painted and minor repairs made, and all the grading, seeding and tree planting finished, and very little money will have to be expended at headquarters in the future; a considerable part of our appropriation has been spent in getting things into shape for the proper future development of the reservation, and now we have proper facilities to devote the whole appropriation to development and maintenance.

Last year a new dam was built at Echo Lake, raising the

water a little over two feet, and it was spiled only about ten feet each side of the flume in the centre of the dam. It became evident that to make a water-tight dam it would be necessary to spile the whole length, which has been done. We also placed our water pipes under the dam, and buried them to a depth of four and one-half feet all the distance to the cottages and stable, thus preventing a recurrence of last year's trouble with frozen water pipes. A road to Echo Lake has been built, and is a fair type of road that may ultimately be built upon the lines of our fire guards.

We have made, painted and set many signs, giving distances, directions and elevations at many places upon the reservation; and upon the mountain road we have constructed a small shelter and one lookout, which have proved so useful and popular that more should be built in the spring.

The hotel was leased to Mr. William R. Howe the past season, and the observatory, as usual, was managed by our employee. I think the attendance on the mountain showed an increase over the preceding year. The visitors have been very orderly, and it has been necessary to arrest but six persons.

Two or three more traps for wild deer have been constructed, and the old ones improved by a new gate device. This season we have caught one large buck and two does.

We have trimmed the underbrush along a strip of land bordering upon the road on the westerly edge of the reservation, and are only waiting a favorable time to burn it, thus improving the former dangerous conditions. We can now burn over areas of land with a greater degree of safety, as I have purchased six hand chemical fire extinguishers, which have proved very useful.

I will again urge an appropriation for the purchase of the Sawtelle parcel, which is needed to round out the lines of the reservation, and also to give us more barn room and a place for the workmen to live.

Respectfully submitted,

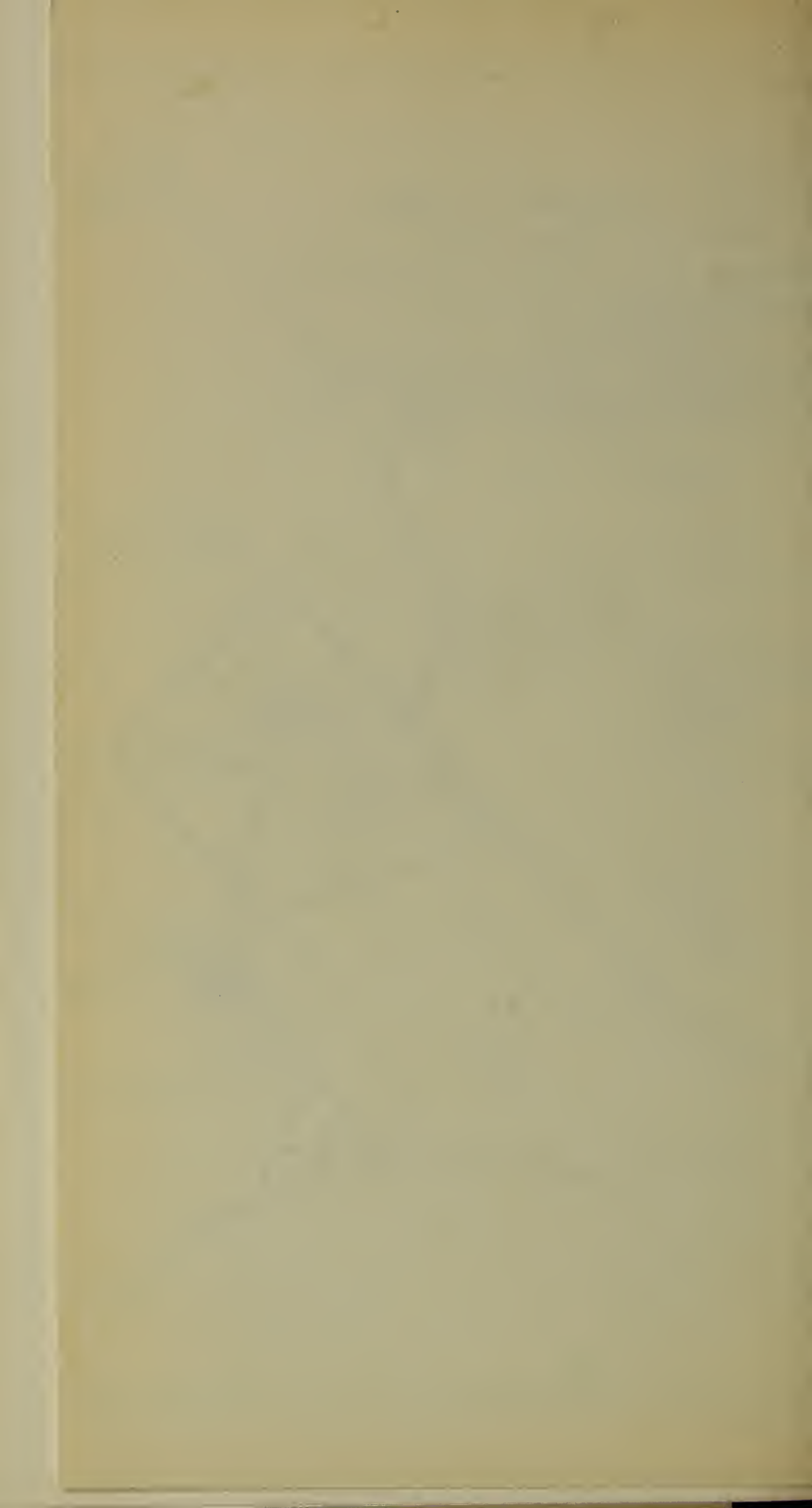
GUY H. CHASE,
Superintendent.



ROAD TO ECHO LAKE.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Amount in hands of State Treasurer, January, 1904,	. . .	\$674 70
Paid on orders for real estate,	. . . . .	\$350 00
Paid on county reimbursement order,	. . . . .	324 70
		<hr/>
		\$674 70



SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1906.

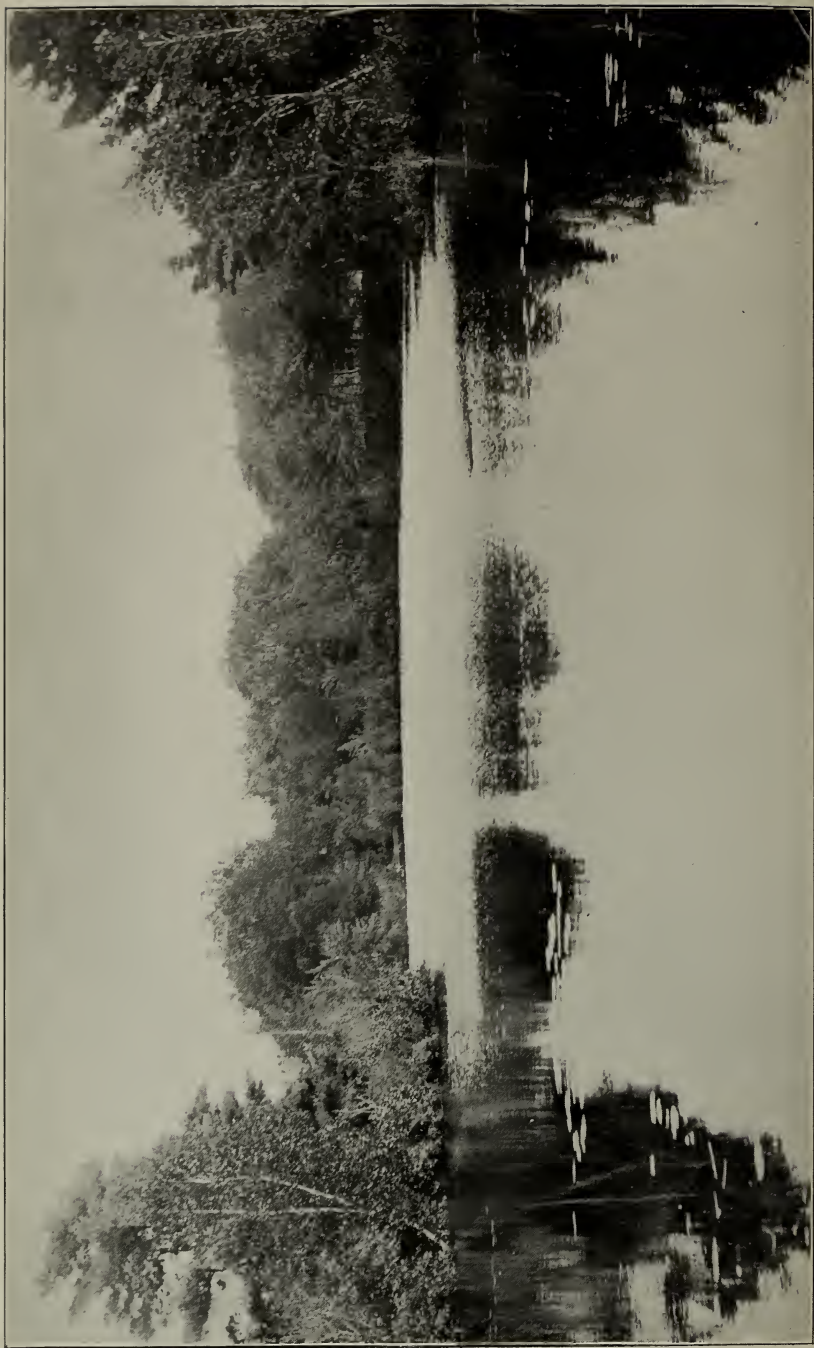


BOSTON :

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,

18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

1906.



BOLTON POND, LOOKING NORTH.

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mass. WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1906.



BOSTON :
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

1906.

C.

MADE IN THE U.S.A.

APPROVED BY
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

711M3
W112
1905
A

OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

HAROLD PARKER. THEO. L. HARLOW.
JOHN T. BURNETT.

Superintendent.

GUY H. CHASE.
Address, Princeton, Mass.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

In the fifth annual report of the commission it was strongly urged that an appropriation of \$25,000 be made to enable it to construct fire guards, acquire adjoining lands and to reconstruct the building at the summit of the mountain. Owing to the fact that no such appropriation was made by the Legislature last year, your commissioners have no report to render for such work as was therein recommended, except such as they have been able to do out of the appropriation made by the county of Worcester. It was pointed out in that report that fire guards for the protection of the State property were, in the opinion of the commissioners, absolutely necessary; so necessary, in fact, that with the money allowed by the county of Worcester, which is hardly more than sufficient to maintain the reservation in fair condition, a certain amount had to be spent in the construction, so far as it would go, of the fire guards that we had urged upon the Legislature. In view of the fact that it was not deemed wise on the part of the State to make appropriations for this purpose, the commissioners have decided to make no further request for help in this respect from the State, but to go on with the construction of this necessary protection out of the county appropriation as fast as it is possible, notwithstanding that the commissioners believe that serious loss may result because of uncontrollable fires within the limits of the reservation.

The report of the superintendent shows in detail the work as it has been done, and the measures that have been taken to

protect, so far as it is possible, the territory acquired by the Commonwealth on Mount Wachusett.

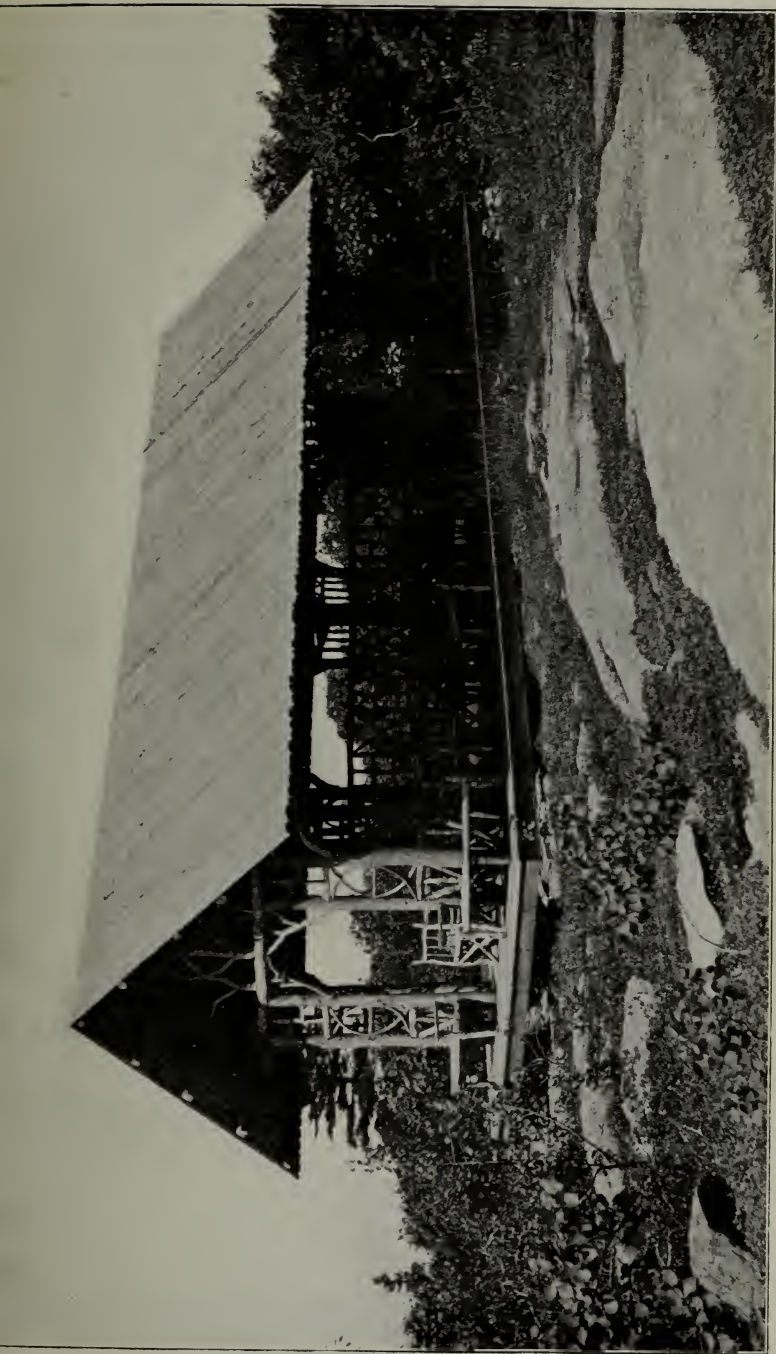
Reference is made to the report of the consulting forester as to certain methods of developing the forest growth on the mountain, with a view to improving the growth thereon, as a matter of financial economy and also as a matter of picturesque beauty. These reports are submitted herewith, as indicating the needs in the case and embodying also the views of the commissioners themselves.

The reservation is yearly becoming more popular, and more people not only from the immediate country but from greater distances are collecting here each year as a centre for recreation and pleasure; it is estimated that nearly 50,000 people visited the reservation during the past year. It must be manifest that where so many people congregate, proper accommodations should be provided for their use. As has been repeatedly stated to the Legislature in former reports, the hotel and its surroundings are wholly inadequate, and are a cause of very much adverse criticism by the people who visit this region. It is claimed by these persons that, the reservation having been made for the public good, proper means of enjoying themselves should be supplied by either the State or the county.

By the advice of the Attorney-General, and also from the opinion of the county attorney, it is impossible for the commission to spend the appropriation made by the county for any material improvement or reconstruction of the State's buildings. The law provides that the county of Worcester shall maintain the reservation, and no more. The county money, therefore, cannot be used except to a very small degree in improving the conditions on the mountain.

The commissioners ask that a sum of not less than \$12,000 be appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose of reconstructing the hotel on the summit, as being, in their opinion, no less than the circumstances actually demand.

The commissioners also believe and have so stated previously that certain tracts of land should be acquired, for the filling out of the proper outlines of the reservation. For this they ask a sum of not less than \$5,000.



RUSTIC LUNCH SHELTER, NEAR THE TOP OF WACHUSETT.

So far as the condition on the State reservation is concerned, it may be stated that the commissioners have used their best efforts in preserving the natural beauties; in maintaining the only road to the summit in a satisfactory condition; in building various shelters for the use of the public at different points within the reservation which command especially fine outlooks; in doing such things as they could towards the improvement of the forest conditions; in constructing roads as fire guards, as above referred to; and in further increasing, by breeding and otherwise, the number of deer and elk contained within the limits of the reservation. The cost of maintaining these animals is very small, owing to the fact that the natural increase requires no outside purchase, and all the feed is raised upon the reservation. The commissioners have felt that the breeding of deer and elk under conditions very near to their natural ones is an interesting experiment; they have made a careful study of this, and believe that the result may be of general usefulness.

There appears to be no doubt that this reservation will serve, as was intended, a very large public need, and it is very manifest that the public appreciates what the State has furnished. It seems, therefore, unwise on the part of the Commonwealth not to enable its commissioners to complete what it plainly had in view when the reservation was originally established. The commissioners therefore recommend the passage of the following act:—

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND ENLARGEMENT
OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. A sum not exceeding seventeen thousand dollars shall be allowed and paid out of the treasury of the Commonwealth, from the ordinary revenue, to be expended by the Wachusett Mountain state reservation commission for the following purposes: for acquiring, by purchase or otherwise, such lands adjoining the present Wachusett Mountain state reservation as said commission may deem it necessary or advisable to acquire, a sum not exceeding five thousand dollars; for the reconstruction of the Summit house and adjacent buildings on Wachusett Mountain in said reservation, a sum not exceeding twelve thousand dollars.

SECTION 2. Said commission shall have the same power to acquire, take and care for such additional lands as are given to it by section four of chapter three hundred and seventy-eight of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, and section two of chapter four hundred and ninety-six of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and one, in respect to the lands already acquired by the commission for said reservation. The additional lands taken or acquired under the provisions of this act shall form a part of said reservation, and the title thereto shall be and remain in the Commonwealth.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

HAROLD PARKER,
THEO. L. HARLOW,
JOHN T. BURNETT,

Commissioners.

REPORT ON A PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION.

By R. T. FISHER, *Consulting Forester.*

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

DEAR SIRs: — I submit herewith my report upon an examination of the Wachusett Mountain forest, undertaken at the request of Mr. Harold Parker, for the purpose of determining the most satisfactory scheme for the regulation and development of the forest growth within the reservation. My understanding of the function of this tract, which I have discussed with Mr. Parker and Superintendent Chase, is that it is primarily a State park, for the resort and recreation of the people, and that it therefore should preserve and render accessible the woods, streams, points of outlook and other natural features of the mountain; but that, on the other hand, so long as this general policy is not interfered with, there is no reason why the wood and timber should not be utilized and developed in order in some degree to cut down the expenses of the reservation, or to increase the value and productiveness of the land. It is the fact that the present general needs of the Wachusett forest, from the park point of view, would be very largely fulfilled by a policy of utilization and development for the forest growth; but, on the other hand, improvements such as the extension of roads, trails and fire guards, which will render the tract safer and more accessible as a park, are needed to make the proper and profitable treatment of the woods fully practicable. It is assumed, therefore, in the general scheme herein discussed, that the carrying out of the park idea and the betterment of the forest go together.

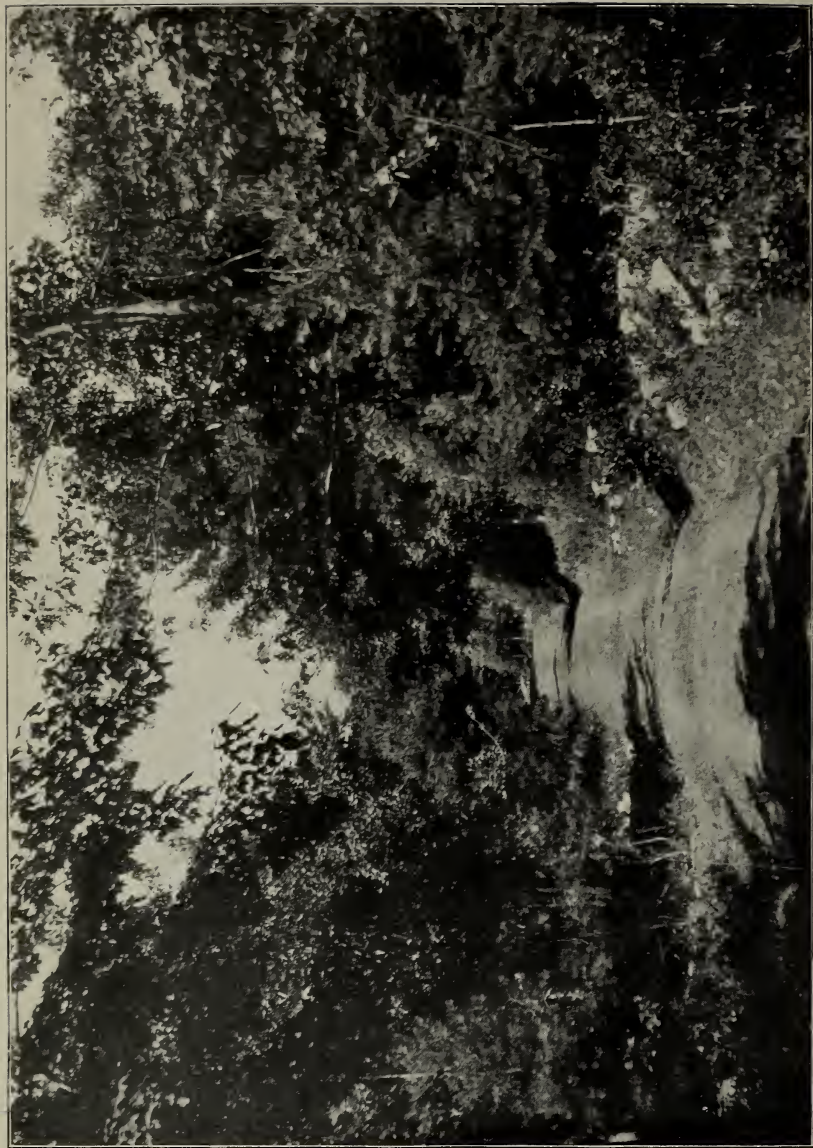
FOREST CONDITIONS.

The forest contained in the Wachusett reservation is mainly in poor condition. The great bulk of it consists of sprout hard woods, chiefly red, black and white oak, hickory, beech, chestnut, white ash, sugar and red maple. Most of it has been cut clear several times already, and the present stand, in blocks of various ages from ten to fifty years, is much reduced in value and vitality. Inferior species, such as gray birch, bird cherry and red maple, have in many places begun to crowd out the better trees, and the general rate of growth has been lowered through the frequent coppicing. In the higher parts of the reservation considerable damage was done to the larger growth by the ice storm of 1900. Much of the forest, however, particularly in the southern and southwestern portions, on the Gregory and Russell takings and along the Harrington trail, shows a thrifty young growth either of white pine or valuable hard woods, which, if released in time, will take the place of the older or worthless trees.

In addition to the main hard wood stand, there are scattered bodies of hemlock, occurring on the steep ledges south and west of the mountain and in the ravine above the deer park. The trees are old and of slow growth, but thrifty and reproducing well. White pine occurs in small groups on the west slope, and as a rapidly increasing young growth in and about the Woodward lot and along the lower and westerly edges of the forest generally. Taking the forest as a whole, whether as a park or a wood crop, it stands in need of proper cuttings to improve the growth, restore the lead to the valuable species, and encourage reproduction in the older, less healthy portions of the woods. Such cuttings would in no way spoil the characteristic appearance of the Wachusett forest, but rather tend to prevent its degenerating into forest weeds and poor growth.

AVAILABLE YIELD.

The present available yield consists almost entirely of cord wood. Small amounts of pine and hemlock saw timber could here and there be got out, but they are mostly too valuable



SOUTH ROAD. ONE OF THE ROADS BUILT BY THE COMMISSION AS A FIRE GUARD,
AND INCIDENTALLY FOR DRIVING.

for purposes other than lumber to be considered for cutting, except for local use in very small quantities. The hard wood areas, according to the treatment proposed, will yield from 3 to 10 cords per acre at the first thinning or improvement cutting. This applies to stands twenty years old and over.

FIRE RISK.

The situation of the Wachusett forest, concentrated upon the exposed slopes of a single mountain, makes the spread of a forest fire unusually easy. Furthermore, there is so much brush and small growth in the woods, which in occasional spring or autumn droughts get very dry, that a very destructive fire might easily occur. At present there are no adequate checks or fire guards to assist Mr. Chase and his men in restricting and fighting a possible fire.

GENERAL OUTLINE OF MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDED.

In view of the facts that the Wachusett Mountain forest is in poor and unproductive condition and considerably exposed to damage from fire, and that its best usefulness as a park would be fulfilled by a policy of protection and gradual improvement and regeneration for the woods, the following scheme of management is recommended:—

1. *Protection.*

(a) A system of roads, trails and fire lines, so laid out as to make all parts of the tract accessible, and so adapted to the topography as to obstruct the natural progress of fires, and offer bases for back-firing in case of need.

(b) At least two resident watchers or patrolmen to watch the tract during the dangerous seasons of spring and fall, report the start of fires promptly to the superintendent, and go at once with all available help to the spot.

For the purposes of protection, as well as of travel, the roads, etc., already built, proposed and under construction by Mr. Chase are thoroughly serviceable, but they should be completed and extended along the lines indicated as fast as possible.

2. *Transportation.*

Driveways or wood roads sufficient to make it possible to get out wood from the portions of the mountain most in need of cutting. This applies especially to the lower south and westerly slopes.

For this purpose also Mr. Chase's proposed locations are thoroughly suitable.

3. *Cuttings.*

(a) Thinnings and improvement cuttings in young and irregular stands, to improve the conditions of growth and remove the worthless in favor of the valuable species. Such cuttings to be made only where the stand is dense, and old enough to yield a return at least equal to the cost of the work.

(b) Reproduction cuttings in the older or damaged portions of the forest, to start young growth or release what is already on the ground. These cuttings to be made gradually over small areas, where the stand is accessible and the yield sufficient to cover the cost. Under this treatment, small amounts of saw timber can here and there be cut.

(c) No cutting should be made on the ledges and precipitous portions of the mountain, where the growth is slow and the danger of drying out the scanty soil is great.

4. *Planting.*

The open and unused land along the northern and eastern margins of the reservation should be gradually restocked with suitable species, particularly white pine. Some planting could also be done in the sparser portions of the forest, where natural reproduction is poor.

These measures Mr. Chase has already planned and provided for with a good forest nursery.

PRACTICABILITY OF PROPOSALS.

The operations outlined above cover what seems to be a complete and sufficient management for the forest land of a public reservation like Wachusett. Inasmuch as they depend upon more roads and more labor, they require some outlay.

The need of roads and trails, and at times more patrol, is quite as essential to the perpetuation and usefulness of the park, as such, as to the woods operations alone; therefore, only a portion of the cost of these measures is chargeable to the account of forestry, and their total cost can be more reliably had in Mr. Chase's estimates than in any that could here be given. As for the treatment of the woods, though it cannot be completely carried out under the present resources of the reservation, it can be satisfactorily begun. The proposed cuttings should yield a more or less constant profit, and they certainly are advisable if they pay no more than their own cost. Cord wood can be cut and shipped to one of the local brick yards or wood yards for (in round figures) from \$3.50 to \$4.50 a cord. The chopping will cost from \$1 to \$1.25, according to whether the thinnings will yield enough to be cut by the cord or by the day. Hauling to Princeton or Westminster should cost not over \$1.35; loading, 25 cents; and shipping, \$1.60 to \$1, according to whether shipment is to Boston or nearer points. Marking the trees for cutting will cost from 5 to 10 cents a cord. This makes a maximum cost of \$4.55, and a minimum of \$3.65. On this basis, the prevailing price of \$5 a cord for wood will leave a margin of from \$1.35 to 45 cents as the returns from thinnings and improvement cuttings. If some of this should have to be used for the disposal of tops or swamping out temporary roads, the cutting would still be good policy for the reservation.

As regards the planting, that cannot of course pay for itself from the start, but it is none the less a good investment. Planting should cost at the outside \$8 per acre, and should average nearer \$6. An acre of white pine at fifty years old will yield from 30,000 to 40,000 board feet, according to soil, or, at a \$5 stumpage rate, \$150 to \$200. At 4 per cent., the original outlay, with expenses of protection and incidentals, will have accumulated in that time to about \$75, leaving \$75 to \$125 profit. Whether the timber be sold or left standing, the increase in the value of the land is plain.

EXECUTION OF THE WORK.

In view of present conditions, the execution of the general scheme recommended had best be undertaken gradually, the roads and fire lines extended as the resources of the reservation permit, and the forest improvements carried out wherever the need is greatest and the opportunity for paying work is best. If this plan is approved by the commission, I stand ready, as a part of the service covered by this report, to co-operate with Mr. Chase in looking up a market, in locating the first cuttings, and in marking a sample area of forest for improvement. It is essential to the success of these cuttings that they be intelligently laid out and frequently inspected, and that the care of young growth be rigidly required of the choppers. It would be desirable, though not at present imperative, to have a detailed working plan for the whole tract, giving a description and an estimate of the stand; a division into compartments, with the exact condition and required treatment recorded for each; a set of cutting rules and a forest map. At present this would be too costly to be justifiable; but, in default of a working plan, it is all the more urgent that a trustworthy man be trained to carry on the marking for cutting, tally and inspect the wood and oversee the chopping. Any honest and experienced chopper can do this, under proper direction; or it may be possible, if Mr. Chase has the right help available, to distribute this work.

I shall be glad to discuss the matters of execution and supervision when the commission has considered this report.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD T. FISHER.

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN:—For administration purposes, to properly protect the reservation from fire, for the benefit of visitors to the reservation, and to carry out the recommendations of the consulting forester, it is of primary importance to construct a system of road fire guards, as stated in my last annual report to your Board, and our efforts have been largely along those lines during the past year. We have constructed what is called the South Road, across the southerly end of the reservation, a distance of 4,750 feet, with all the necessary culverts, rock ballast, etc., with a maximum grade for a very short distance of 18 per cent. and an average grade of 5 per cent. This road is practically completed, requiring but a little surfacing in the coming spring. It is already used as a driving road for business and pleasure, and meets with a large measure of approval from the public, as well as being indispensable for administration of the reservation. It is altogether a well-built road, though it is in no sense a parkway.

We have also constructed across the north end of the reservation a road termed the North Road, extending from the Ox-bow on the Mountain Road to a point on the west town road in the town of Westminster, a distance of 5,400 feet, with all the necessary culverts and water courses, with a maximum grade of $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and an average grade of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This road is not completed, as there is some unfinished ledge work; but it is passable for teams of any description, and in the early spring will be completed and open to the public. This road provides a new route to the

summit for persons coming from Gardner, Westminster, Hubbardston or any points north or west of the reservation, thus saving much in distance, and, what is of more importance, eliminating the necessity of descending to the level of Wachusett Lake, and then making the long ascent from the lake to the summit of the mountain. The entrance to the reservation from the Westminster town road being 400 feet higher than the level of the town road at Wachusett Lake makes it unnecessary to descend to the lake and then climb 400 feet to reach a point on the Mountain Road the same elevation as the entrance to the reservation of the North Road.

We have cleared of all timber, wood and brush the location of what is to be termed the Administration Road, ready for construction in the spring. This road starts at a point about midway of the South Road, and runs through practically the centre of the reservation to a point about midway of the North Road, a distance of 8,400 feet, and is the important link in the system of roads to be constructed.

These three roads are a start in the right direction, and form a part of a system of roads to be built in the future as the appropriations will allow, not by any means a set of detached roads.

Considering the topography of the reservation, the grades are all comparatively easy, and the construction equals that of the average town road. While these roads are given over for the use and pleasure of the public, it must be remembered that the primary object is administrative. The important work on the reservation is in the line of forestry, and the roads are essential before a proper start may be made.

Since the date of our last report the nursery for raising seedlings for the purpose of reforesting the waste lands, and for underplanting where the growth is past its prime, has been enlarged until the capacity is three times greater than it was at that time. We now have over 2,000 lineal feet of seed beds, 4 feet wide, provided with movable screens, and have some two-year-old stock of white pine and white spruce. All the other seedlings came from the seed in May of this year. We have in the nursery the following stock:—

Broadleaf.

Tulip tree,	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera.</i>
Catalpa,	<i>Catalpa bignonioides.</i>
Chestnut oak,	<i>Quercus prinus.</i>
Scarlet oak,	<i>Quercus coccinea.</i>

Conifers.

Larch,	<i>Larix laricina.</i>
White pine,	<i>Pinus strobus.</i>
White spruce,	<i>Picea Canadensis.</i>
Red spruce,	<i>Picea rubens.</i>
Norway spruce,	<i>Picea excelsa.</i>
Blue spruce,	<i>Picea pungens.</i>
Balsam fir,	<i>Abies balsamea.</i>

I would suggest that we reforest the summit of the mountain with spruce, — a tree well adapted to withstand snow and ice pressure. The present growth of beech is a low-lying, scrubby tree, that will never attain any great size; while there are already a few white spruce trees that show by their symmetrical shape their ability to withstand the elements.

White pine can be better started on the lower sections of the territory. The catalpa, being a rapid-growing tree and coming into use for railroad ties, was started in the nursery as an experiment, and time alone will tell whether it is suited to the climatic conditions prevailing here. Chestnut and scarlet oak were placed in the nursery primarily to add to the silva of the reservation.

The proper treatment of the reservation from a forestry standpoint is fully set forth in the report of your consulting forester, Mr. Richard T. Fisher, with whom I am co-operating in work of that nature.

If the present plans of road building, reforesting and improvement thinnings are carried to a conclusion, the time will surely come when the reservation will be in a large measure, if not entirely, self-maintaining. The sooner the roads are built to enable us to properly carry on the work, the sooner that end will be attained, as well as safeguarding the reservation from fire.

The relief map is completed, and will be used as an index of all work of a forestry nature. This map shows very clearly the possibility of enlarging Bolton Pond to a depth of 25 feet, length of 2,000 feet, and an average width of 300 feet, by the construction of a dike about 100 feet north of the present old dam. This dike would need to be but 300 feet long on top, with a height of about 30 feet in the centre and 4 feet at each end. This would add greatly to the attractiveness of the reservation, and it could be well stocked with fish. The work necessary to complete this dike could be carried along gradually, as the funds at our disposal would allow.

During the past year we have built about 1,600 feet of guard fence along the roads, and all has been painted. We have built a very attractive lunch shelter upon the Indian trail near the summit of the mountain, with tables and seats for picnic parties. It is of rustic design, and no finished stock was used in the construction excepting the floors.

A small parcel of land was seized from William R. Howe in the early spring, comprising Taking No. 8; this was needed to supply gravel for the construction of roads.

I can only repeat what I said in my last annual report of the necessity of providing some adequate public convenience upon the summit. The present building is altogether beyond ordinary repairs, and any money expended in this way is simply wasted. What is needed is a new building, or an entire reconstruction of the present building, of a type more suited to the needs of the public, with proper sanitary conditions, provisions for supplying lunch, and a few rooms for those who are desirous of staying over night to see the beauties of a sunset and sunrise, and to see the lights of the neighboring cities and towns. This kind of a structure could be self-sustaining, to say the least. The present building is the subject of much well-deserved criticism from the public, who may reasonably expect to find better conveniences upon a State reservation so well patronized and appreciated as Wachusett.

We have captured six wild deer to add to our herd, and we now have five elk.

Of the routine work, policing, etc., you have been informed

from time to time, and I will add nothing here to what I have already stated in my other reports.

The South Road is largely built upon land owned by the Woodward heirs, as is also the nursery. This land is held under a lease with option, and it is absolutely necessary that an appropriation be made to enable us to acquire the same. There are also other small parcels which it is necessary for us to acquire, not from any vain desire to increase our holdings, but for the fulfillment of certain specific plans of improvement; and I strongly urge that a petition for an appropriation for the furthering of the plans outlined above be presented to the Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

GUY H. CHASE,
Superintendent.

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1907.



BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

1907.

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mass. WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1907.



BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

1907.

C.

APPROVED BY

THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

1900

1900

711M3
W111
1906
A

OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

HAROLD PARKER. THEO. L. HARLOW.
JOHN T. BURNETT.

Superintendent.

GUY H. CHASE.
Address, Princeton, Mass.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

At the time the last annual report of the commissioners was rendered, it was recommended that an appropriation be made by the State of \$12,000, to be expended in remodeling and placing the house at the summit of the reservation in a condition that would make it convenient for the public and a credit to the State. The final disposition of our recommendation was that the county be authorized to expend \$12,000 for the purpose named. While this gave the county commissioners the authority to spend this amount for the purpose named, it was not mandatory upon them to do so. The result is that the house at the summit remains to-day in practically the same condition that it was one year ago, and we are advised by the superintendent of the reservation that unless some immediate steps are taken to either rebuild or remodel, the place must be abandoned in the near future.

The appropriation of \$5,000, made by the State for the acquiring of additional land and perfecting the boundaries of the reservation, is still in the hands of your commissioners, awaiting the proper deeds from the owners of properties and takings which are now under preparation, and the acquisition of the property will be perfected very shortly.

The reservation has been greatly improved during the past year by building new roads, reforestation and improvement thinnings. A great element of danger, however, still lurks in the reservation through lack of proper fire guards, and protection against serious fires, which are liable to get beyond control during protracted dry seasons. Should such

occur, the reservation would suffer beyond estimate, and the labor of years might easily be wiped out in a few hours. We have annually pointed out this danger, and have asked for appropriations in order that the property of the State might be properly safeguarded. We regret that the importance of this matter has not received the attention which your commissioners felt was warranted in the interest of the Commonwealth.

It is the intention of your commissioners to proceed with the work of beautifying the reservation, and making it more and more accessible to the public so far as the appropriations from the county will admit. Its growing popularity is ample evidence of the wisdom of the Commonwealth in providing within the borders of Worcester County a reservation which is furnishing yearly a most beautiful pleasure ground for its residents.

For a more detailed report of the work done upon the reservation during the past year, we would respectfully refer you to the appended report of the superintendent.

HAROLD PARKER,
T. L. HARLOW,
JOHN T. BURNETT,

Commissioners.

JAN. 1, 1907.



NORTH ROAD.



SOUTH ROAD.

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN:—During the past year the appropriation allowed by the county of Worcester has been generally devoted to road building and forestry,—two branches of the work on this reservation which are closely allied, as stated in the report last year of Mr. Richard T. Fisher, your consulting forester. In addition to that work, however, we have carried on the regular work of policing, improvements, repairs and maintenance of roads already constructed, etc.

As the total length of finished roads has more than doubled in the past year or two, it will be seen that the cost of repairs and maintenance increases, thus leaving less money available for new work in the line of road building. It would seem very desirable, therefore, that the county appropriation should be slightly increased each year, as the length of finished road increases, thus enabling us to build a certain section of road each year, until the general road system as planned is completed.

The Mountain Road and the South Road were resurfaced, and repairs made to culverts. Contrary to expectations the North Road was not completed until August, owing to a greater amount of ledge work than was anticipated. However, it was open to travel all summer, and, with the South Road, was much used by the public and met with great favor. The Administration Road is so far completed that it is passable from the South town road to the nursery, though it has not been surfaced as yet. In my opinion, another season's work will complete this road to the Harrington trail from the South town road, and also mark a beginning at the other end, where it forms a junction with the North Road. As this road is projected through a basin of a depth of from two to three feet and an area of about ten acres, into which

several streams flow, and from which there is no outlet except by overflowing, thus forming a swamp, it became necessary to drain that basin, which has been done by blasting two ditches through the rim of the basin, the water in one flowing into the Connecticut watershed and the other into the Merrimac, thus obtaining a good hard bottom for the road where before there was a swamp, and also reclaiming several acres of land.

In the early spring we transplanted in the nursery about 32,000 conifer seedlings, and reforested some unproductive pasture land with about 15,000 white and Norway spruce and white pine seedlings from two to four years old, and obtained very gratifying results, as fully 97 per cent. of the seedlings lived. As mentioned in earlier reports, the hardwood growth has suffered much from snow and ice pressure, and I have taken a typical block (No. 1) and carried on an improvement thinning, with the results shown in the accompanying photographs, obtaining a yield of about 8 cords to the acre, releasing the young growth, and greatly improving the appearance of the block.

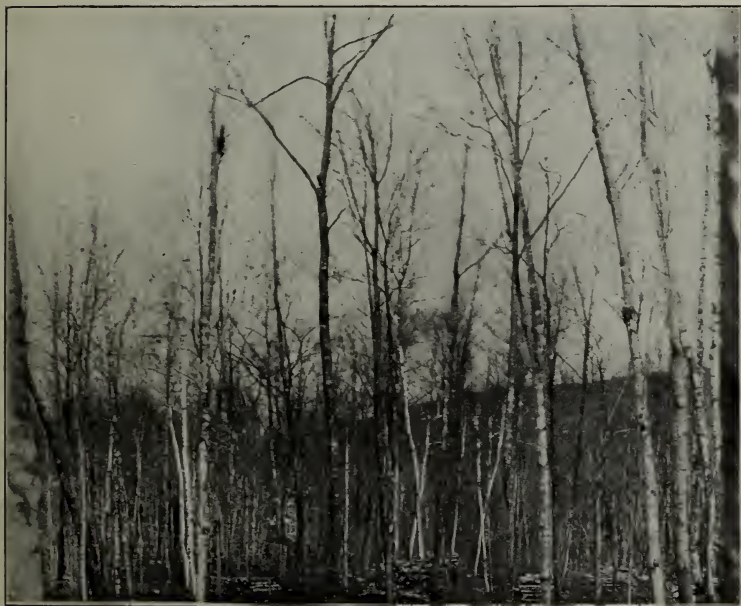
For fire protection in block 2, which is a stand of white pine, we have cleared away the accumulation of débris upon the ground, and the dead branches from the trunks of the trees to a height of about eight feet.

The reservation police officer is always on the lookout for fires, in connection with his other duties, and as a further precaution we have a telephone system consisting of seven stations at widely separated parts of the reservation, which enables us to be immediately informed in the event of a fire, as well as being of great value for administrative purposes. "Forestry and Irrigation" says of the value of the telephone in the United States forest reserves: "Now that the telephone is recognized as one of the best safeguards against the spread of forest fires, this arrangement means greatly increased safety to the reserves, secured without expense."

Surveys for takings numbered 9, 10 and 11 have been made, and also plans for those takings. The deeds are now being drawn for taking No. 9, being 64 acres of the estate of Caleb Woodward, on the southerly end of the reservation, and also for taking No. 10, being 55 acres of the estate of



BLOCK I.—BEFORE IMPROVEMENT THINNING.



BLOCK I.—AFTER IMPROVEMENT THINNING.

George Smith, on the northerly end of the reservation. Negotiations are still pending for the acquirement of the land owned by the heirs of J. M. Sawtelle, being about 15 acres on the northeasterly side of the reservation.

About 3,000 feet of guard fences have been built during the year, made necessary by embankments upon the new roads.

I trust that a sufficient appropriation will be allowed this year to enable us to replace the present unsanitary, unsightly and inadequate structure upon the summit of the mountain with a building that will be a credit to the reservation. If the plans submitted by your architects, Messrs. Frost, Briggs & Chamberlain, are considered prohibitive, some more modest changes could be made, of the kind submitted by your superintendent. At all events, something must be done this year, or the house must be closed.

Respectfully submitted,

GUY H. CHASE,

Superintendent.

PRINCETON, MASS., Jan. 1, 1907.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

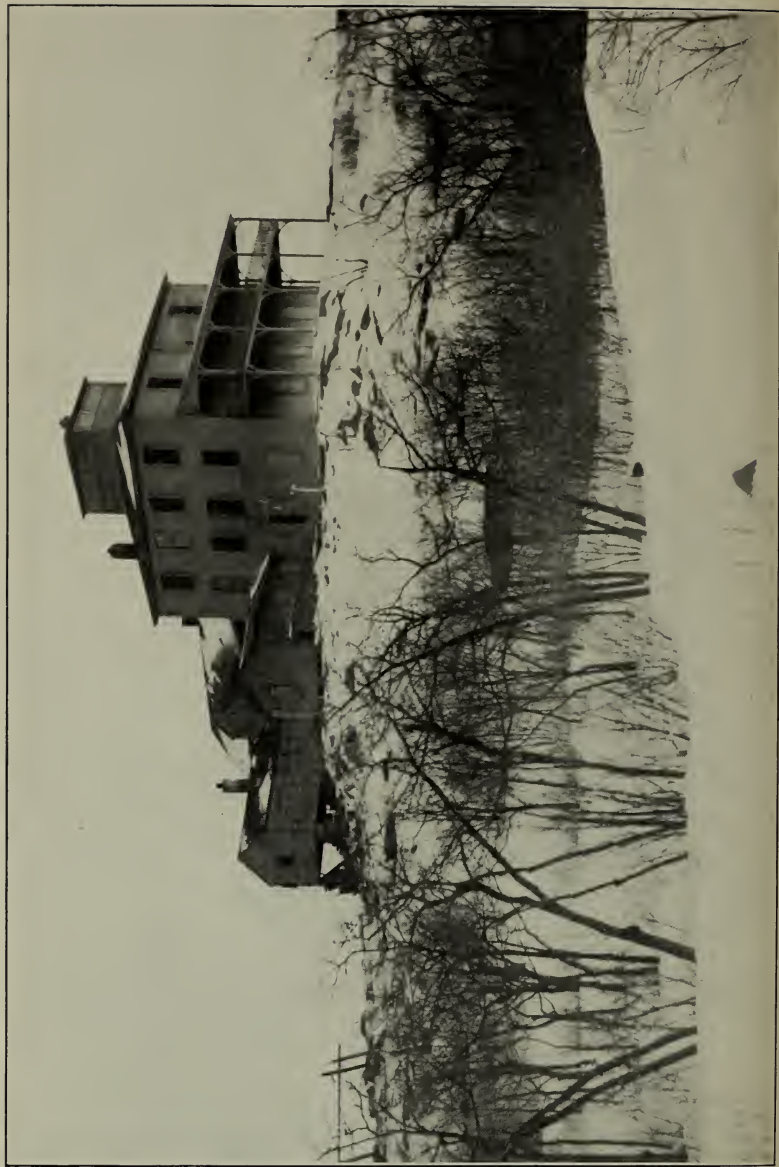
JANUARY, 1908.



BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.
1908.





THE OLD SUMMIT HOUSE, BEFORE RECONSTRUCTION.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mass. WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1908.



BOSTON:
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.
1908.

5

12/11/13
Substituted for
missing copy.

APPROVED BY
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

711 M 3
W112
1907
A

OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

HAROLD PARKER. THEO. L. HARLOW.
JOHN T. BURNETT.

Superintendent.

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,
Address, Princeton, Mass.



FRONT ELEVATION, RECONSTRUCTED SUMMIT HOUSE. — From Architect's Drawing.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

The act of the Legislature of two years ago empowered the county of Worcester to pay \$12,000 for the construction of a new house on the top of Wachusett. As this reservation is the property of the State, it was not considered by the county commissioners of Worcester County an act of great liberality on the part of the General Court, as it would add to the assets of the Commonwealth out of the revenue of the county.

However, with the approval of the county commissioners, the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission last year spent about \$3,500 of Worcester County's annual appropriation in building a new hotel on the site of the old one; and further portions of the county appropriations will have to be used each year until the completion of the building.

This Board has taken the position that, while it is incumbent upon the county to maintain the reservation it is not expected that it shall bear the expense of additions to the State property, such as the acquiring of additional acreage or the erection or restoration of buildings thereon.

During the past year the county appropriated \$8,000, of which amount approximately \$3,500, as stated above, has been expended in renovating and improving the building. It is estimated that not less than from \$5,000 to \$8,000 additional will be required to carry out the contemplated improvements. It has appeared to the commissioners that this expenditure of approximately \$10,000 is a proper one for the

State to bear, inasmuch as it is a distinct addition to the reservation, and is State property, bearing the same relationship to the reservation, in the opinion of this Board, as do the various tracts of land acquired from time to time, for which the State has made appropriations.

The residue of the county appropriation has been judiciously expended in building new roads, reforestation, and keeping the roads already established in good repair.

The reservation was policed during the season, and everything within our means has been done to make it an enjoyable recreation ground for the public.

For a more detailed account of this portion of the work, reference is made to the annexed report of the superintendent.

The following is a statement of the expenditures of the commission from Dec. 1, 1906, to Nov. 30, 1907:—

Appropriation,	\$5,000 00
Paid Hobard Raymond,	\$2,300 00
Paid heirs of Caleb Woodward,	1,500 00
Paid John P. Roper,	291 00
Paid Elliot Peabody, legal services,	125 00
	<hr/>
	4,216 00
	<hr/>
Unexpended balance,	\$784 00

HAROLD PARKER,
T. L. HARLOW,
JOHN T. BURNETT,

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

WORCESTER, MASS., January, 1908.



ELK ON THE RESERVATION.

APPENDIX A.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN:— I have the honor to submit my first report, accompanied by photographs showing the old “ Summit House ” and the proposed changes. The photographs, while showing the lack of artistic design, fail to show the unsafe and dilapidated condition of the old buildings.

It having been decided to reconstruct the hotel from the county appropriation, work to begin in the fall, it was necessary to keep expenses down as much as possible through the summer months. This we have tried to do, only doing that which was absolutely necessary.

The usual spring work was attended to in the nursery, about 6,000 white pine seedlings having been transplanted, and the beds replanted to white pine. I have decided to attend strictly to white pine and spruce, as they seem the best adapted to our purpose. Different sections of unproductive pasture land were reforested with about 6,000 two-year-old white pine and spruce seedlings. These are looking well, and about 50 per cent. of those that were planted in the past are doing well.

The roads were found to be quite badly washed, owing to the severe spring rains. It is an expensive task to put these in shape each year, as the grades are unavoidably steep, causing a heavy wash. They were put in good condition, and were well patronized through the summer months. About 600 feet of road were built, and 1,000 feet stumped.

The hotel was leased through the summer, with the understanding that it should be vacated the third of September. On the fourth we started tearing down the old ell, taking

care to save all good lumber. The work of reconstruction was then begun, with a small force of men, under the supervision of Mr. J. C. F. Mirick, your architect. Since then work has been pushed as much as possible under the circumstances, it being hard to procure labor and materials, the location being a great drawback. We have been fortunate in building on the addition and new roof without any of the furnishings being damaged by the elements, and I am in hopes to have the hotel ready by the coming season.

I have begun the winter work of improvement thinning on a small scale. There is a good market for wood, and I have disposed of some that was thinned out last year.

Takings Nos. 9 and 10, mentioned in last year's report, have been added to the reservation, and also taking No. 11, which contained 29.1 acres, owned by John P. Roper.

Respectfully submitted,

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

Superintendent.

STATE HOUSE
APR 12 1909

78
19
A

Public Document

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON.

No. 65

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1909.

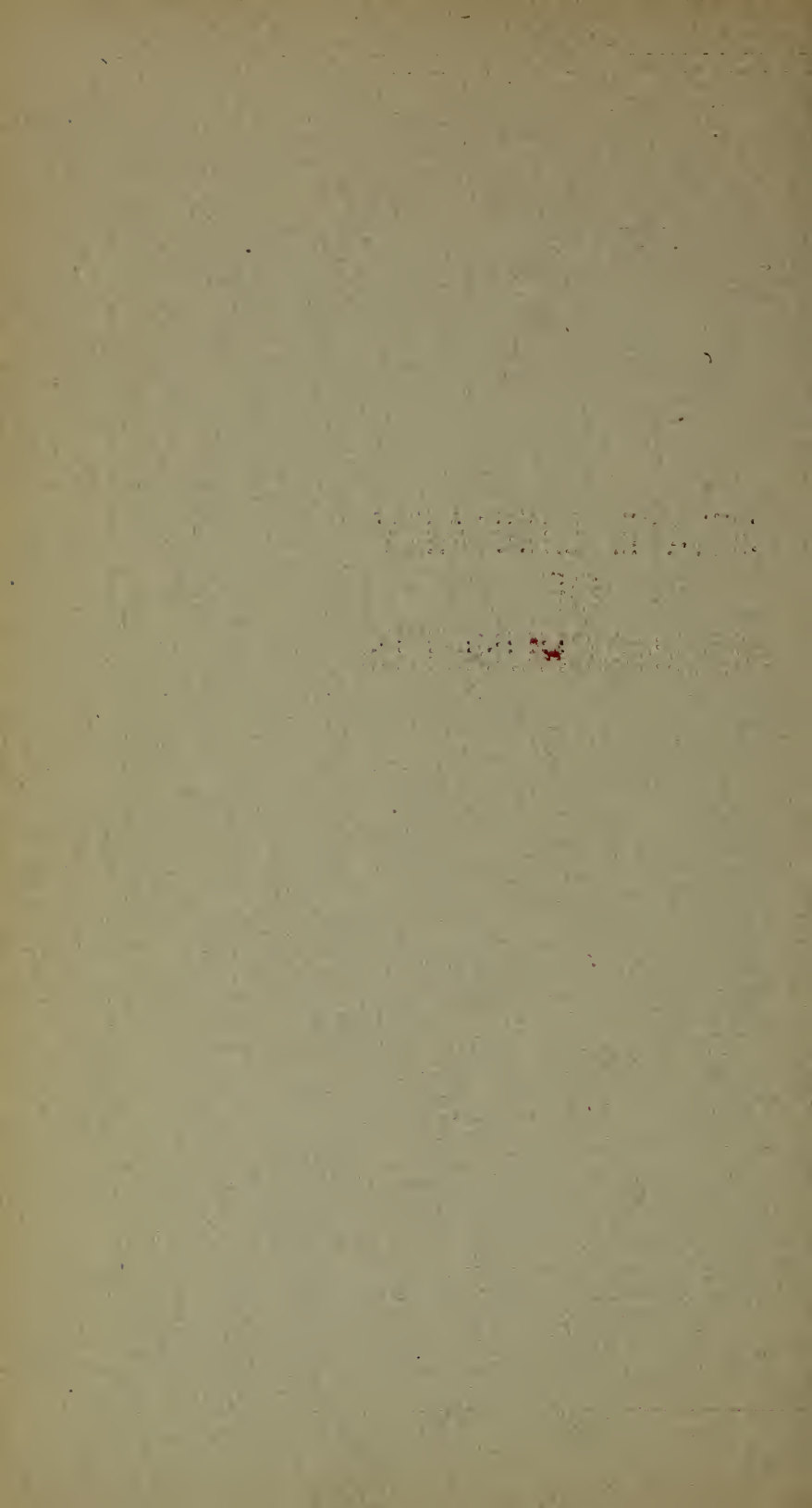


BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,

18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

1909.





NEW SUMMIT HOUSE — WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN.

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mass. WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1909.



BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,

18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

1909.

C.

APPROVED BY
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

711M3

W112

1908

A

OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

HAROLD PARKER. THEO. L. HARLOW.
JOHN T. BURNETT.

Superintendent.

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM.

Address, Princeton, Mass.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

Your commissioners desire to report that the appropriation made by the county to cover the expense of maintenance of the reservation for the year 1908 (now embracing over 1,400 acres) was \$9,000. Had this entire amount been available for the maintenance and improvement of the reservation, which is in fact the sole object of the appropriation under the law which established it, your commissioners would be able to report a very considerable addition to its roads, foot paths and fire guards, a large advancement in re-foresting, and a general improvement in the facilities for the enjoyment of what has proved to be a most acceptable pleasure ground for the public.

Unfortunately, however, your commissioners have been burdened with the remaining cost of remodeling the hotel at the summit (upon which the sum of \$3,500 had already been expended in 1907), the cost of completion having been approximately \$6,200, which left but about \$2,800 available for improvement work already mentioned, and which in the best interests of the State should be done. We desire to further report that out of this amount of \$2,800 it was necessary to expend \$1,300 for a pumping plant at the base of the mountain and for piping to the summit, in order to furnish a proper water supply at the hotel. This, therefore, left but about \$1,500 for the maintenance of the State property.

Your commissioners desire in this report to repeat the statement in their report covering the year 1907, — that in their opinion the expenditure for remodeling the hotel at

the summit is a proper one for the State to bear, it being in fact a part of the reservation, and consequently included in the property of the State, in which the county has no title. The meaning and intent of the act establishing the reservation was that the State should purchase the property and the county should maintain the same. The hotel at the time of purchase was in a state of practical debilitation, and if it had been allowed to remain in that condition it would to-day have been practically worthless. It therefore does not seem proper to your commissioners that under these conditions the county should be required to remodel and make habitable the property of the State, and your commissioners would therefore respectfully ask that an appropriation of \$8,000 be made, with which to restore to a normal condition the roads and lands belonging to the Commonwealth, neglected for the past two years; and they present the following bill:—

AN ACT TO REIMBURSE THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION FOR MONEY EXPENDED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUMMIT HOUSE, PAID OUT OF THE COUNTY APPROPRIATION FOR MAINTENANCE.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. A sum not exceeding eight thousand dollars shall be allowed and paid out of the treasury of the commonwealth, from the ordinary revenue, to be expended by the Wachusett mountain state reservation commission for the construction of roads and fire guards and forestry improvements in the reservation.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage

The commissioners are unable to report any great improvement in the property, other than the new hotel, during the year covered by this report; but the limited amount available has been devoted largely to keeping the roads in good repair and maintaining the nursery.

For details of the work done during the year we would respectfully refer you to the report of our superintendent, which is annexed hereto.

Following is a statement of the expenditures of the commissioners out of the \$5,000 appropriated two years ago:—

Appropriation,	\$5,000 00
Paid Hobart Raymond,	\$2,300 00
Paid heirs of Caleb Woodward,	1,500 00
Paid John P. Roper,	291 00
Paid Elliot Peabody, legal services,	125 00
Paid Ambrose E Weston,	600 00
Paid Flora Plimpton,	75 00
	<hr/>
	4,891 00
	<hr/>
Unexpended balance,	\$109 00

HAROLD PARKER,
T. L. HARLOW,
JOHN T. BURNETT,

Commissioners.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN: — As stated in our last report, our main effort, and the greater part of our appropriation, was to be expended on the new “Summit House.” I am pleased to report that we were able to open the hotel on the first of July for the convenience of the public. The work on the house was pushed as much as possible through the winter, and in the spring a large force enabled us to finish it comparatively early in the season. But one coat of paint was given the exterior, the second being applied after the hotel closed in the fall. As the work progressed, many improvements over the original plans were brought to your attention and installed with your approval. This added to the original estimate, but greatly increased the attractiveness and convenience of the hotel. The lowest bid on the specifications first submitted was \$8,853.91. The commission thinking it advisable not to build by contract, I find we saved approximately \$300. The total cost, with additions and improvements mentioned, was \$9,697.30. Owing to the season being somewhat advanced when the hotel was completed, instead of leasing, as is our usual custom, by your instructions I placed a manager in charge. We had a good season, and the public seemed well pleased with the service.

I should like to call your attention to the much-needed repairs on the old barn, as it is in such a condition that it must either be torn down or remodeled, and as we need a carriage shed and garage, the latter would be more economical. The old frame is in good condition, and with a little expense could be made over to answer all purposes.

I also find that a laundry is needed, and would suggest erecting a small two-story building in the rear of the hotel,

with a laundry and woodshed on the first floor and sleeping rooms for help on the second.

It has proved by past experience that the small pond on the summit would be an insufficient water supply, owing to the modern plumbing used in the new hotel. With your approval I installed a pumping plant at Echo Lake, which after careful consideration I feel is the most economical solution to a difficult problem. Through 5,000 feet of 1½ inch pipe good water is raised 750 feet to tanks with a capacity of 2,000 gallons, in the attic of the hotel. The outfit consists of a four horse-power gasoline engine and a 1¼ inch triplex pump. Over this a small building was erected. A woodsaw is also connected with the engine, which is very convenient. The pump works very satisfactorily, and pumps 400 gallons per hour.

A team of young horses was added to our equipment in the early spring, which have proved to be a paying investment.

The work in the nursery was carried on the same as usual. The seedlings were transplanted and the beds reseeded. Twenty-five thousand spruce and pine two-year-old seedlings were transplanted in unproductive pasture land. The small trees previously transplanted in this way are thriving, and I cannot lay too much stress upon the importance of this branch of our work.

In the fall the pond on the summit was thoroughly drained and cleaned for the first time in many years. Tons of muck were carted out and used for grading around the hotel. A cement dam was built with a 6-inch drain pipe and gate, so that in the future the pond can be easily drained and cleaned.

It having been decided by the commission to open the mountain road to motor vehicles commencing August 1, during certain hours of the day, signs were placed to that effect. The roads were widened in places and the brush was thinned out around the turns, enabling one to obtain an unobstructed view ahead. The privilege was appreciated by automobilists, who seemed well satisfied with the grades and condition of the roads.

The police patrol was carried on as in previous years.

Especial vigilance was necessary during the fall, while forest fires were raging throughout the country, owing to the continued dry spell. Two automobilists were arrested for running their machines to the summit during hours when not allowed.

Some necessary repairs were made on the icehouse in the fall. The sills and corner posts were renewed and the roof shingled.

Taking No. 12, containing 25 acres, owned by Ambrose Weston, and a house lot of .6 of an acre owned by Flora Plympton, were added to the reservation. Negotiations are under way for Taking No. 13, containing 7.1 acres, owned by the heirs of John M. Sawtelle.

Respectfully submitted,

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

Superintendent.

PRINCETON, MASS., Jan. 1, 1909.

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1910.



BOSTON:
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.
1910.

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mass. WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1910.



BOSTON:
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.
1910.

STATE LIBRARY OF MASSACHUSETTS,

FEB 25 1910

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON.

APPROVED BY

THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

MASSACHUSETTS
STATE
LIBRARY
OF
PUBLICATION

711M3

Willr

1909

A

OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

HAROLD PARKER.

THEO. L. HARLOW.

JOHN T. BURNETT.

Superintendent.

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM.

ADDRESS, PRINCETON, MASS.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

The commission makes the following report of its doings and of the condition of the reservation for the year 1909 : —

It will, of course, be realized that, under the provisions of the act which created it, the character of work to be done from year to year changes very little, and that therefore the report of the commission is little more than a statement of the superintendent of work done under his direction.

The cost of maintaining the reservation, under the law, is borne by the county of Worcester, and the Board makes its report of expenditures to the county commissioners of Worcester County.

The unexpended balance of the \$5,000 appropriated by the Legislature in 1907, in the hands of the commission at the close of the year 1908, was \$109. A statement is included in this report of the expenditure of the whole of that sum, which includes the statement made last year.

It will be seen from that statement that the reservation has been somewhat enlarged by the expenditure of this money, and that the reservation now comprises all the commission thinks should be included in it.

Out of the money provided by the county of Worcester the reservation has been kept in good condition ; its roads have been improved and some new ones constructed ; its foresting operations have been continued, as in the past ; and a great many thousands of young trees have been planted on the waste area of the mountain.

The hotel at the top of the mountain, which was built at the expense of the county of Worcester, has proved a very attractive feature to the public, and has drawn more people to the reservation during the past year than ever before. The stable accommodations and the garage for the housing of automobiles have enabled people from a distance to secure accommodations which are satisfactory and appear to meet the approval of visitors.

As this is an interesting portion of Worcester County, and is the highest land east of the Connecticut River in Massachusetts, it naturally attracts a great many visitors from all parts of the State, as well as a good many from outside.

Attached to this report will be found the statement of the superintendent.

The following is a statement of the expenditures of the commission out of the \$5,000 appropriated in 1907:—

Appropriation,	\$5,000 00
Paid Hobart Raymond,	\$2,300 00
Paid heirs of Caleb Woodward,	1,500 00
Paid John P. Roper,	291 00
Paid Ambrose E. Weston,	600 00
Paid Flora Plimpton,	75 00
Paid Charles F. Baker,	84 00
Paid Elliot Peabody, legal services,	150 00
	<hr/>
	\$5,000 00

HAROLD PARKER,
T. L. HARLOW,
JOHN T. BURNETT,
Commissioners.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN:— The work on the reservation throughout the past year has been a continuation of the original policy.

A tract of about five acres of red oak, which was deteriorating, owing to breakage caused by ice storms, was cleared. Some of the lumber was used in improving and enlarging the barn on the summit and for other repairs. The rest of the logs we will cart to some near-by chair shop. We will restock this with white pine.

In the spring some repairs and improvements were completed on the summit. The old barn was torn down and the cellar filled and graded. This makes a level spot for a croquet ground for the amusement of guests. The other barn was extensively repaired and enlarged, and a good-sized garage was added to it. The outbuildings were painted. Quite a little filling in and grading were done about the hotel, and an attractive guard wall was built. All this added much to the attractiveness of the summit. By trimming out a line and setting poles, we were able to place a New England long-distance telephone at the Summit House.

About seventeen thousand pine seedlings were transplanted in various sections of the reservation. I am sorry to report that, owing to the very dry weather through the summer, the young transplants have not thrived as well as in the past, especially in the dry and sandy soils.

The hotel was leased for the season to Mr. Charles Horne and was run in a very satisfactory manner. A large increase in the attendance at the summit has been noticed. This, I think, is owing to the new hotel and the opening of the road to automobiles. I am pleased to report that, although

at the least a thousand machines were run to the summit through the season, not one accident was reported. I think this shows that with due care an accident is entirely unnecessary.

The work on the Administration Road, which was discontinued two years ago in order to build the new Summit House, was resumed. This road starts at the South Road and runs through the center of the reservation, a distance of about 8,400 feet, to the North Road, and makes a good addition to the roads on the reservation. This will be completed in the spring.

The driveway over Echo Lake dam was widened, and a rough wall and fence built on the inner side, making it safe for teams to pass each other.

I am sorry to report that three large fox hounds broke into the deer park, and, before they could be shot, had killed one buck deer and injured two others so they had to be shot.

Taking No. 13, containing 7.1 acres, owned by Charles F. Baker, was added to the reservation.

Respectfully submitted,

E. W. NEEDHAM,
Superintendent.

PRINCETON, MASS., Jan. 1, 1910.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1911.



BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,

18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

1911.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mass ; WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1911.



BOSTON:
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.
. 1911.

FEB 24 1911

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON.

APPROVED BY
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

RECEIVED
FEB 24 1911
STATE HOUSE
BOSTON
MASS.

711M3

W11r

1910

A

OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

HAROLD PARKER. THEODORE L. HARLOW.
JOHN T. BURNETT.

Superintendent.

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM.
ADDRESS, PRINCETON, MASS.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

The commissioners beg to report that the appropriation made by the county to cover the cost of maintenance, repairs, etc., of the reservation for the year 1910, was \$8,000.

It was possible to apply the larger portion of this appropriation to the improvement of the reservation lands, the expenditures on the hotel during the previous three years having interfered with this work. These expenditures had been made necessary, as already reported, owing to the dilapidated condition of the buildings, which would have become practically useless had not these expenses been incurred.

During the year 1910 Administration Road was completed, — which is 8,400 feet in length, and is now in good condition for horse-drawn vehicles and automobiles, — and a large amount of work in reforestation was done. These improvements are more fully referred to in the superintendent's report, which is annexed hereto.

The commissioners desire to say that out of the \$8,000 received from the county in 1910 it was necessary to expend \$2,000 in building the annex to the hotel, thus reducing the amount available for ordinary care.

In this connection it would be appropriate for your commissioners to quote an extract from the report of 1909, referring to the amount which has been expended out of the county appropriations for the years 1907, 1908 and 1909, amounting, approximately, to \$12,000 : —

Your commissioners desire in this report to repeat the statement in their report covering the year 1907, — that in their opinion the expenditure for remodelling the hotel at the summit is a proper one for the State to bear, it being, in fact, a part of the reservation, and consequently included in the property of the State, in which the county has no title. The meaning and intent of the act establishing the reservation was that the State should purchase the property and the county should maintain the same. The hotel at the time of purchase was in a state of practical debilitation, and if it had been allowed to remain in that condition it would to-day have been practically worthless. It therefore does not seem proper to your commissioners that under these conditions the county should be required to remodel and make habitable the property of the State.

Had the commissioners been in a position to apply this amount to the improvement of the reservation, it would have been in a very much better condition to-day, as regards protection from fire, as well as convenience to the public in visiting the various interesting spots within its borders.

The reservation has gained largely in popularity during the year covered by this report, an increase in visitors, including automobilists, having been very noticeable; and there is no doubt that the reservation is becoming more and more popular as a resort as time goes on and the improvements become known to the residents of the State.

HAROLD PARKER,
THEODORE L. HARLOW,
JOHN T. BURNETT,

Commissioners.

JAN. 1, 1911.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN:—I am pleased to report that the various plans decided upon as the best policy in the management of the reservation have progressed in a most satisfactory manner.

The Administration Road is now open to the public and makes a beautiful drive. One can now start at the South Road, and, by following the Administration, North and Mountain roads, have a delightful four-mile drive to the summit, through the heart of the reservation. The main feature in this system of roads is the great advantage in case of fire, and I would advise adding others to it. I had hoped we might be able to build a macadam road to the summit, but as this now seems impossible, owing to the expense, I would advise extensive repairs. There is a gravel pit on the North Road a mile and a half from the summit, and with this we could put the Mountain Road in first-class condition. As we have about six miles of road on the reservation now, it is quite an item to keep them in repair, as they consist mostly of steep grades.

The Annex was started early in the spring and completed in time to be used through the summer. This is an attractive and a much-needed addition to the Summit House. It contains nine chambers, a pool room, laundry and wood shed. The frames, sidings, roof and under floors were built from lumber cut on the reservation. With this addition to the Summit House we now have quite a modern hotel, capable of accommodating about thirty-five guests. Run under your supervision during the past season, a general satisfaction seemed to prevail among the patrons.

The furniture is old, but we may be able to add a little to it each year. The one bad feature about making the hotel a paying investment is the difficulty in transportation to the

summit. As it is three miles to the nearest electrics and eight to the nearest steam line, one can imagine the disadvantage. A two-mile addition to the electric road would remove this difficulty to a large extent.

A five-acre piece of worn-out mowing was seeded down, and a good crop saved the necessity of buying hay, as in the past. There are about forty acres of mowing on the reservation that I hope, in time, to treat in this manner.

Twenty-three thousand white pine seedlings were transplanted in different sections of the reservation and are doing well. These were all grown in our nursery.

A much-needed addition was made to the barn at headquarters, and quite a little repairing done to the buildings on the reservation.

The police patrol was carried on in the usual manner.

Respectfully submitted,

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

Superintendent.

PRINCETON, MASS., Jan. 1, 1911.



DEC 2 11 WPA

